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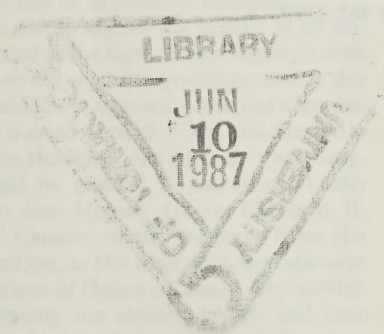


No. 1

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, April 22, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 22, 1986

The Second Session of the 33rd Parliament of the province of Ontario opened at 3 p.m. for the dispatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the chamber and being seated upon the throne, was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, j'ai l'honneur de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à l'ouverture de cette seconde session du 33e Parlement de l'Ontario, surtout qu'il s'agit pour moi de la première occasion.

I would like to say for the benefit of all this afternoon that in the light of Her Majesty's 60th birthday we did send her greetings, and at this time I would like to indicate to you just what was written. It is dated April 14, 1986, and directed to Sir William Heseltine, Her Majesty's secretary.

"I should be grateful if you would kindly convey to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, warm greetings from Her Honour and me, as Her Majesty's representative in the province of Ontario, Canada. We reaffirm to Her Majesty our abiding loyalty and deep affection and join with the citizens of Ontario in wishing Her Majesty a very happy birthday."

Ontarians wish to express the pleasure we share, along with all Canadians, in the upcoming marriage of His Royal Highness The Prince Andrew. As well, the province will be honoured with a visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne in late June. This occasion will provide us with an opportunity to express the pride we feel in our heritage as a constitutional monarchy.

Recognizing the commitment of the people of Ontario to fundamental principles, an invitation has been extended to Bishop Desmond Tutu to address this assembly during his visit to Ontario in late May.

The assembly enters this session with some work left from the last time it gathered. At that time, members made an impressive start towards fulfilling a forward-looking program, including freedom of information and privacy legislation,

pay equity, improved labour laws, family law reform and policies to ensure the availability of affordable housing while guaranteeing fairness for tenants and landlords.

My government will continue to work for sound reform in these and other areas. However, it will focus particular attention on the fundamental challenges Ontario must face in order to fulfil its potential.

The agenda for the next decade that is set forth today offers a framework for long-term achievement rather than a list of short-term promises.

It outlines some of the steps Ontario must take over the next decade to ensure its place as the world-class society of the 21st century.

While continuing to build on our traditional resources and manufacturing sectors, we must master the new standards of a world economy characterized by an intense competition focused on services, knowledge, information and new technology in order to maintain and create jobs.

We must provide excellence and relevance in education and training, particularly in shaping a generation capable of innovating and seizing opportunities.

We must ensure our ability to provide affordable and accessible quality health care and social services for all in the light of increased needs created by demographic shifts in the age composition of the Ontario population and changing family structures.

We must continue to advance the government's fundamental values of openness, accessibility, fairness, opportunity and the pursuit of excellence.

My government will remain vigilant in controlling the cost of government and consistent in steering it clear of ventures that are best left to the private sector.

My government will continue to recognize our province's responsibilities to our nation. Ontario is determined to play a constructive leadership role in building a stronger Canada with a bright future for all its people.

The world economy is in an era of transition. Ontario enters this period with considerable strengths.

Our economy has emerged leaner and stronger from a decade in which the world economy experienced significant upheaval.

Over the past 12 months, 179,000 jobs have been created in Ontario. The first three months of this year saw the creation of 73,000 new jobs.

Housing starts in the province rose to an annual rate of 78,000 in the fourth quarter of 1985, the highest rate in more than seven years. That robust trend has continued in the early months of this year. In urban areas, starts from January to March were 66.5 per cent higher than in the same period in 1985.

Increased economic activity has driven the unemployment rate down to 6.8 per cent, the lowest in Canada.

Not everyone nor every region in this province has had the chance to share equally in its growth. It is vital that we build upon our ability to create prosperity and provide opportunity for all, including northern Ontarians, eastern Ontarians, women and minorities.

In order to prepare our economic structure for the decades ahead, we must set our horizons beyond Canada's borders, adapt our institutions and utilize fully and productively the knowledge, ingenuity and skills of our people.

The application of technology combined with low wage rates has made newly industrializing countries increasingly competitive with us. In more developed economies, rapid advances in science and technology are creating new industries based on skills, knowledge and innovation.

Our past performance in technological innovation has produced some notable successes, but we must co-ordinate and target these efforts to accelerate growth, bolster their commercial impact and open up jobs and opportunities for Ontarians.

Ontario will flourish as an enterprising society only when business, labour, educational institutions and government work together to create prosperity and opportunity.

3:10 p.m.

My government will move immediately to achieve that goal. It will establish a Premier's council to steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation. The high-level council will be chaired by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and include as active participants several cabinet ministers and leaders of business, labour and post-secondary education.

The council will direct a \$1-billion special technology fund, at least \$500 million of which will be new moneys, to be allocated over the next decade. The fund will support, complement and encourage science and technology research in the private sector and post-secondary institutions.

The council will direct moneys to business, universities and colleges by way of shared financing. Government will act as a catalyst to stimulate joint ventures in strategic fields. A priority will be co-operation with post-secondary schools which demonstrate effectiveness in basic research and success in securing commercial contracts in applied research.

The council will champion entrepreneurship and innovation across the province to establish firmly Ontario's position as a world-class, internationally competitive society. It will be asked to undertake several key tasks, including:

Establishment of broad provincial priorities in support of critical industries and technologies, to concentrate our resources on areas of specialization and avoid duplication;

Encouragement of the most productive investment in basic research, applied research and technology transfer;

Development of approaches to maximize the effectiveness of this province's investment in technology centres, innovation centres and the Ontario Research Foundation.

Among the council's early initiatives will be the establishment of distinguished chairs in science and entrepreneurship at Ontario universities.

My government will also join with the private sector to establish a nonprofit centre devoted to increased public awareness and understanding of information technology. The centre will offer valuable assistance to the Ontario information technology industry in product development and will serve as a world-class public showcase for this province's technology.

The government will address the growing importance of the service sector of our economy. The service sector has steadily increased in importance over the past four decades. Its growth has been particularly pronounced in industries characterized by a large knowhow component, such as health care, education and a broad range of expert services to business, and in expanding fields of expertise, such as environmental management, agricultural technology and public administration.

The service sector now provides jobs for more than 70 per cent of Ontario's work force and is expected to grow considerably more over the next 10 years.

Global trade in services is now growing at almost the same rate as trade in goods and already accounts for as much as 25 per cent of world trade.

A study of the Ontario service sector, its capacity for further growth and the ways the province can help it thrive, is well under way. The preliminary findings will be made public shortly. Measures to address some early opportunities for action will be pursued in this session.

The mandate of the Ontario International Corp. will be expanded to enable it to better market Ontario's world-class private sector and public sector goods and services.

The maintenance of a vital and growing capital market in Ontario will be given a high priority. Regulations concerning the securities industry will be introduced to ensure Ontario's ability to compete in a changing, internationally competitive market.

My government will work with the private sector to establish a Canadian insurance exchange in Toronto and will pursue the designation of Toronto as an international banking centre, if such designation of cities is undertaken by the federal government.

My government will expand opportunity for small business and entrepreneurship. Small business is directly responsible for most of the new jobs created over the past decade. It is a leading source of opportunity for women, young people and minorities.

My government will introduce several measures to enhance the competitiveness of the vital small business sector.

The mandate of small business development corporations will be expanded to include assistance to the business services sector.

An Ontario investment network will be established in co-operation with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. The province-wide, self-sustaining network will help small business find out more about market conditions and government programs and bring together entrepreneurs seeking capital for new and expanding companies with private equity investors.

To enhance competition and benefit customers, my government will introduce legislation to permit the distribution of beer and wine in independent grocery stores.

Entrepreneurship is as important on the shop floor as it is in the boardrooms. Employee participation in ownership of the business in which they work provides tangible benefits to the individual, the firm and the economy as a whole. My government believes in helping to provide workers with a direct stake in their firm's success.

To this end, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will be announcing the creation of an Ontario employee

share ownership program. Incentives will be provided to stimulate the creation of a wide range of employee share ownership plans, from bonus allotments to employee buyouts, resulting in productivity improvements, increased international competitiveness and improved labour-management relations.

Ontario's economic success depends to a large extent on our ability to sell our goods and services in the fiercely competitive international market. Close to home, the United States market accounts for nearly 90 per cent of Ontario's exports. Through our network of trade and investment offices, the government will work with business to enhance our access to the US and European markets and strengthen our ability to draw on US and European technology.

But we must expand our trade horizons. To begin that process, my government will build stronger investment, trade, technology and cultural links with the nations of the Pacific Rim, the fastest growing market in the world.

Later this year, the Premier will lead a major government mission, involving senior business and labour leaders, to the Pacific Rim. My government will augment that effort with several steps, including:

The appointment of an agent general in Tokyo;

The establishment of a trade office in Seoul;

The opening of a science, technology and cultural centre in China;

The implementation of graduate student exchange programs with Pacific Rim nations.

These steps will raise Ontario's profile and help Ontario companies obtain access to greater technology, trade and investment opportunities.

My government recognizes the importance of Ontario's primary industries, which still provide the economic backbone of rural Ontario and northern and eastern communities.

In response to the needs of Ontario's farm community, my government will enhance our programs, offering financing and marketing support for Ontario farmers.

Additional assistance will be developed to improve the health of Ontario farm animals and aid farmers to enhance the care and productivity of their soils.

A key initiative will be undertaken to double food exports to the Pacific Rim.

These measures will be geared to building upon the competitive base of Ontario's farmers and food processors. To that end, a special program will be put in place to provide marketing assistance to northern Ontario farmers and widen consumer choice in that region.

3:20 p.m.

My government will also pursue a policy of encouraging the adaptation of research and advanced technology to the needs of the food industry. Early efforts in that direction include a modernized pesticide laboratory to maintain the highest standards of expertise in pesticide analysis and a world-class food quality laboratory to safeguard Ontario consumers by ensuring that food products meet established quality and safety standards.

Programs will also be put in place to advance modern technology in other primary industries, including funding to increase the technology development and export potential of two rapidly emerging industries—remote sensing and computerized base mapping.

Ontario will take advantage of the growing potential of the tourism industry.

My government, working closely with the private sector, will develop and implement a long-term tourism strategy.

The plan will include several immediate initiatives, including aggressive new promotion and marketing campaigns; a hospitality training and awareness campaign to encourage repeat visits; and improved signage, rest stops and travel information centres to enhance highway travel.

Priority will be given to the preparation of a tourism strategy specifically tailored to the needs of northern and eastern Ontario.

Immediate initiatives will include additional funding for a northern Ontario tourism development program to take advantage of new business opportunities in the north. Additional funding will be directed to enhance tourism attractions and facilities in eastern Ontario, including upgrading of our eastern gateway travel centre in Lancaster.

Special consideration will be given to regional requirements, such as assistance for capital improvements.

Ontario will continue to be a world leader in environmental protection. The penalty provisions of our environmental laws will be strengthened. My government is determined to take further steps to protect the quality of our drinking water.

The Ministry of the Environment's world-class laboratory services have been allocated additional funds to improve their capacity for environmental testing. These changes will allow another 230,000 tests on organic samples to be performed this year, a 60 per cent increase over the past.

The province will pursue opportunities for innovation and development to meet environmental needs at home and market technologies abroad. Development of enhanced waste water treatment technology will be a priority.

My government is committed to ensuring that Ontario Hydro is a responsive agent for economic development in the province. The government recognizes Hydro's importance to the competitiveness of Ontario industry.

In planning for future growth, Hydro will pursue opportunities for diversification in our generation mix, such as industrial cogeneration and municipal solid waste incineration. Steps have already been taken to encourage small power production by the private sector so that we make full use of Ontario's water resources.

Hydro's role in fostering economic development is particularly important to northern Ontario, where service levels and reliability go far to determine economic wellbeing.

To ensure responsiveness to northern needs, a northern advisory board for Ontario Hydro will be established. The board will be given a mandate to pursue policies that increase the corporation's contribution to northern social and economic development.

My government will implement a policy to direct and co-ordinate management of its property holdings in order to support aggressively our economic and social objectives, sell surplus lands and create new opportunities for ventures with the private sector.

Our tax system must also be reformed in the context of the economic and social changes that are occurring in our economy. The government will be proposing changes to increase the equity and efficiency of federal and provincial tax structures in securing our social and economic objectives.

As part of the government's commitment to opening up the budget process, a new committee of the Legislature will be created. The members of this committee will be asked to consider and report on the fiscal and economic circumstances of the province as part of the 1987 budget process.

To compete successfully in tomorrow's economic environment, we must recognize today's economic trends. Ontario can look forward to economic advantages in the future, but they will be substantially different from those we have enjoyed in the past.

Notre province ne pourra s'épanouir qu'avec le savoir, la souplesse et les qualités d'entrepreneur de sa population. Mon gouvernement

reconnait, en conséquence, que cette population constitue la plus grande richesse de la province.

The new advanced industries and sophisticated services offer great opportunity for knowledge workers who have learned how to adapt to the need for frequent adjustment.

My government is determined to ensure excellence through all stages of education—in elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities and skills training and enhancement programs.

In achieving these goals, the underlying principle guiding our education policy will be a commitment to relevance. That commitment will include new efforts to develop scientific interest and innovative approaches, particularly at the elementary school level.

To begin to achieve that goal, my government will take some immediate steps.

TVOntario will be given increased funding to produce more programming with particular emphasis on the educational curriculum, especially in the science field.

Greater effort will be devoted to helping students and teachers become more familiar and comfortable with new computer technology.

A program will be undertaken to advance excellence in education for young women, including initiatives to encourage career exploration in fields related to science, mathematics and technology. Special emphasis will be placed on examples of female achievement in the field, occupational opportunities and training routes.

Education must provide young people with a bridge to business, industry and employment.

Students must be encouraged to develop entrepreneurial qualities, such as self-motivation and the ability to originate ideas about how things can be done better and more productively.

Schools must also help young people to learn more about the world of business and the job market they will enter.

To provide young people with this background, my government will embark immediately on a number of policies.

Innovative courses in entrepreneurship will be encouraged throughout the education system, to help students recognize their potential and broaden their horizons.

Active partnerships in teaching and learning between schools and local business will be promoted, to permit students, school staff and business people to work side by side on mutually beneficial projects.

Schools will be assisted to provide computerized job search programs in order to furnish

students in higher grades with information on labour market prospects, job search techniques and related educational and training programs.

Greater emphasis will be placed on co-operative education programs, to improve transition to the work force.

The economic changes we are experiencing place a premium on the need for continuing education and new tools of learning for remote communities, especially the use of communications and information technologies. With these goals in mind, my government will take the following steps.

A high school of science and technology, located in northern Ontario and accessible to students from the region, will be established and linked to local research, college or university facilities.

A major project in northern Ontario will be undertaken to expand the use of new technologies in delivering distance education to remote communities. This project will also build on the clear potential for developing these technologies locally.

Ontario's ability to meet many of the challenges it faces depends on how well it can harness the full potential of its post-secondary education system.

Ontario needs graduates who understand science, technology and innovation, and business administration, marketing and international trade.

3:30 p.m.

My government is committed to enabling Ontario universities and colleges to establish their essential place on the path to excellence in these and other targeted areas. This will involve determining the areas of specialty universities can master and the avoidance of unnecessary program duplication.

Once decisions about the areas of concentration have been made in consultation with the post-secondary institutions, my government will support excellence through appropriate funding and measures directed towards institutional accountability.

Schools of advanced education can fulfil their potential by recognizing the need to co-operate, as well as compete.

In addition to maintaining the ability to provide quality in the core programs of liberal arts and science, my government will encourage the development of centres of excellence in Ontario's post-secondary institutions.

In 1985, my government introduced a post-secondary education excellence fund to provide

for renewal of faculty and physical plant. That principle will be extended.

Over the next 10 years, skills and flexibility will become increasingly essential for knowledge workers to meet the demands of the modern working environment.

The changes we face make necessary a new approach to training and skills upgrading, on an ongoing basis, for the entire labour force.

As an immediate priority, my government will develop a skills bank containing an inventory of training and professional development packages readily accessible to firms which are not yet sophisticated trainers. Essential to the quality and relevance of the training packages will be close collaboration among industry, labour and education leaders in sectors facing rapid change.

To ensure the highest standards of training, the skills bank will operate in conjunction with a fund to encourage the development of training programs that utilize new technologies in teaching skills.

As well, my government will offer further programs to improve and expand training in this province and meet specific needs.

Special efforts will be undertaken to promote broad access to skills training for women, single parents, minorities, the residents of remote communities, the physically handicapped and others facing unique or long-standing barriers.

A greater priority will be placed on the retraining needs of older workers and others in the work force.

Assistance will be provided to potential employers, particularly in small businesses, who wish to train but whose circumstances constrain their ability to offer effective programs.

Enhanced consulting services will be offered to improve training in industry, and the skills of training instructors will be upgraded.

While providing education and skills upgrading to those who can readily benefit, Ontario must also address the needs of the functionally illiterate.

My government has begun to examine the problem and review programs and will offer proposals to combat illiteracy through schools, libraries, colleges and other institutions.

Government efforts will be directed to advancing the ability of all Ontarians to learn and adapt in an era in which knowledge will become increasingly essential.

Ontario's system of health care and social services ranks with the best in the world. My government is committed to maintaining its strengths and adapting to changing needs.

The next decade provides the province with one of its greatest challenges and most exciting opportunities in these fields. Meeting this challenge and making the most of this opportunity will require bold approaches, innovative thinking and resourceful management.

Our ageing population, developments in technology, professional advancements and new programs and facilities are changing the way in which the health care system responds to the needs of the population.

Over the past decade, public expenditures on health care in Ontario have escalated at a pace far greater than the rate of inflation. In recent years, Ministry of Health expenditures have grown at between 13 and 14 per cent annually. The Ministry of Health budget is now close to \$9 billion and represents approximately 31 per cent of the total provincial budget.

If these trends were to continue to the year 2001, the ministry budget would nearly double.

One of the most significant factors contributing to increased costs is the growth in the number of elderly persons. Between now and the year 2001, the province will see a 41 per cent increase in people over the age of 65. The number of people over age 85 will nearly double. These age groups represent major users of acute care facilities, long-term institutional care, the drug benefit program, home care and physician services.

The costs associated with meeting these needs will have a major impact on total government expenditures in the future.

Confronted by the changing demographics, the cost of new high-technology equipment, the demands for capital funding and the need for more community-based programs, it is imperative that we begin to plan now for the provision of first-class health care well into the 21st century.

My government will launch a study on future directions in health care. Among the issues that must be addressed are changes in the demographic and health profiles of citizens, trends in health, manpower and technology, the need for emphasis on preventive medicine and the changing patterns of health services.

The province remains firmly committed to the principle of equal access to Ontario's health care system. It will proceed with the Health Care Accessibility Act to ensure this principle is strengthened and preserved.

Additional steps will be taken to improve the level of health care in this province.

Greater resources will be committed to cancer treatment and care.

A multi-year plan will be developed to meet the capital needs of Ontario hospitals.

My government is committed to improving the quality of life of the elderly and supporting their desire to live fully independent lives. A cabinet minister responsible for the specific concerns of senior citizens, the first in Canada, has spent considerable time meeting with the elderly and their representatives, as well as with experts in geriatrics and community care.

The minister will shortly release a white paper on health and social services for the elderly. It will provide clear directions to best serve the needs of senior citizens in ways that will allow them to maintain their independence.

My government is committed to marshalling the resources of all relevant ministries to implement needed steps in the near future.

Greater emphasis will be placed on programs to allow seniors to live independently in their own communities.

Community services will be co-ordinated to ensure that senior citizens who require assistance are properly assessed and obtain the necessary services with a minimum of inconvenience and delay.

Regional geriatric units will be created in selected community hospitals.

A multidisciplinary department of geriatrics will be established at an Ontario university as part of a major commitment to improve teaching in the area of geriatric care.

My government will also undertake efforts to assure the quality of life of nursing home residents and to support community organizations in the development of recreational services and activities for the retired.

Recognizing that even in a time of economic growth the needs of the less fortunate must be addressed, my government will launch a thorough review of Ontario's social assistance system to determine ways to combat poverty more effectively.

The review will examine the overall effectiveness of income support programs and assess their method of delivery, levels of assistance and flexibility to encourage and ease transition to the work force.

Because of the intergovernmental and financial implications of the delivery of social service programs, the Treasurer will pursue with the federal Minister of Finance and his provincial counterparts, issues arising from this review, including their impact on national income-support mechanisms.

3:40 p.m.

In the past year, my government has taken several steps to open the process of governing to greater public scrutiny and participation.

My government will continue to make appointments to agencies, boards and commissions that make those bodies representative of all groups in society and all walks of life.

Pour la première fois, les délibérations de l'Assemblée législative seront télévisées régulièrement et tous les Ontariens pourront observer le travail de leurs législateurs.

Changes in the rules of the Legislature will further open our debate and give individual members a greater opportunity to contribute their talents and views.

My government will introduce amendments to improve election expenses legislation.

A new policy will ensure fairness and impartiality in Liquor Control Board of Ontario hiring practices and Liquor Licensing Board of Ontario procedures. Hiring for liquor control board jobs will no longer be made by order-in-council appointment.

Government policies will continue to recognize the importance of the arts and the need for an arm's-length relationship with funded cultural groups.

My government will take further steps to ensure that all Ontarians are guaranteed their fundamental rights. A new policy on race relations and community harmony will be put in place. Efforts to promote employment equity will move forward. Legislation will be introduced to guarantee French-language services to meet the needs of francophones in this province.

In order to assist Ontario's native peoples to retain and strengthen their unique cultural heritage through economic development, my government will develop a native economic participation program to provide opportunity for native entrepreneurs.

My government will move ahead with plans to ensure enforcement of occupational health and safety standards in the work place.

Recognizing the increasing importance of child care facilities to families, new spaces will be created in child care programs in order to advance economic equity.

Steps will be taken to improve the public's access to the justice system, regardless of income, and assure speedy resolution of disputes.

My government is proud to have announced important steps to end the chronic underfunding of legal aid.

Interpreter services in courts will be increased to facilitate access by those whose mother tongue is neither English nor French.

Groups and individuals seeking to intervene in the public interest before administrative tribunals will be assisted.

Acting further in its commitment to justice, my government will propose a series of programs to assist the victim of crime and physical abuse, the forgotten person in the system. Victim assistance programs will be expanded to alleviate the suffering of battered women and children. Specialized staff in crown attorneys' offices will counsel and assist victims of such crimes as child abuse, rape and spousal assault.

Those who drink and drive will be vigorously prosecuted. Building on Ontario's record in traffic safety and efforts to combat drunk driving, funds will be provided to expand the Ontario Provincial Police reduce impaired driving everywhere program.

Economic changes have given rise to an increased need for government to update its policies to protect consumers. My government will review statutes and propose legislation to make them more sensitive to consumer needs and more adaptable to changing markets and new technologies.

Many Ontarians merit special acclaim. In order to provide deserved tribute, encourage volunteerism and reward participation and excellence, my government will establish a new award of the highest degree, to be known as the Order of Ontario. Ontario's highest commendation will accord recognition to Ontarians who demonstrate a high level of community leadership and meritorious service to the public.

Through the leadership and efforts of my ministers and through the work of the Legislature, we must seek to prepare this province for the 21st century.

Avec la volonté et dans l'esprit du peuple ontarien, nous devons parvenir à réaliser le progrès qui inspirera notre province et notre pays.

May Divine Providence attend your deliberations.

In our sovereign's name, I thank you.

God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of His Honour's speech, which I shall now read. [Reading dispensed with.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

SUCCESSION LAW REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Conway, first reading of Bill 1, An Act to amend the Succession Law Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor be taken into consideration on Thursday next, April 24, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that, notwithstanding standing order 64(a), private members' public business not be considered until the first Thursday following the completion of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that when the House adjourns today it stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Thursday next, April 24.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

Second Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: **Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC**Speaker: **Hon. H. A. Edighoffer**Clerk of the House: **R. G. Lewis, QC**

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
 Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
 Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
 Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
 Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
 Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
 Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)
 Cousins, W. D. (York Centre PC)
 Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
 Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)
 Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)
 Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)
 Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)

Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grandmaitre, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)
 Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)
 Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)
 Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
 Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)
 Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)
 Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
 Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)
Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)
Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
 Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)
 Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)
 Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
 McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)
 McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)
 McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
 McKessock, R. (Grey L)
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 Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
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 Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Carleton East L)

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Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer (Waterloo North L)
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Haggerty, R., assistant to the Minister of Government Services (Erie L)
Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Humber L)
Mancini, R., assistant to the Premier (Essex South L)
McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Energy (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)

Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

*Lists published on first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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No. 2

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Thursday, April 24, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 24, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: I would like to ask all members to join me in welcoming the first group of legislative pages to serve in the Second Session of the 33rd Parliament, 1986. Their names and ridings are as follows:

Gillian Babe, Lake Nipigon; Jeffrey Blain, Brock; Joseph Biello, Hamilton Mountain; Melanie Brunt, Chatham-Kent; Deborah Carraro, Yorkview; Jonathan Daniels, Kitchener; Larissa Fenn, Scarborough Centre; Nathalie Fredette, Nickel Belt; Matthew Ginn, Halton-Burlington; Jamie Halpin, Essex North; Marc Joannis, Cochrane North; Tanya Jordan, Beaches-Woodbine; Steven Leonard, Mississauga South; Tomas Liacas, St. David; Jennifer Manuell, Kenora; Anna Michener, Simcoe East; Karen Northey, Muskoka; Matthew Raniowski, Prince Edward-Lennox; Jeremy Rhodes, Grey; Karina Rogers, High Park-Swansea; Benjamin Rutherford, Scarborough-Ellesmere; Tziona Szajman, York Centre; Lisa Taillefer, Peterborough.

Please join me in welcoming the pages.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I now will lay upon the table the 11th annual report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses for the fiscal year 1985-86.

Also, I will place upon the table the ninth report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses respecting indemnities of the members of the Ontario Legislature.

For the members' information, these two reports have been placed inside their desks.

PRESENTATION

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to present apples from the great riding of Grey to you and the other members of the Legislature. The southern Georgian Bay area is the largest apple-growing area in Ontario, where more than 7,500 acres produce McIntosh apples as well as other varieties. Last year, the Georgian

Bay crop totalled approximately 2.7 million bushels. Today, these apples have come to you directly from the environmentally controlled storage and packing facility of Georgian Triangle Apples Ltd. of Thornbury.

VISITORS

Mr. Villeneuve: In the members' gallery today, we have a very famous young couple with us, Kim Hanford from London, Ontario, and Julien Lalonde from St. Isidore de Prescott, Ontario. They were the junior dance pairs runners-up in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships, 1985, and performed in Europe recently.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ARMENIAN MEMORIAL DAY

Hon. Ms. Caplan: On behalf the Premier (Mr. Peterson), my colleagues and the government of Ontario, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day, which marks the proclamation of Armenian Memorial Day in Ontario.

This day of remembrance for those who have suffered makes us even more aware of the value of our democratic rights and freedoms. The Armenian genocide was a violation of inalienable human rights and decency. Through this memorial, we hope to preserve the ideals of individual liberty, freedom and opportunity that form the foundation of our society in Ontario. Let us hope that history has taught us some lessons.

Mr. Shymko: On behalf of the members of Her Majesty's opposition, I would like to join my honourable colleague in reminding members that in April 1979 the late Osie Villeneuve's private member's resolution was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to proclaim this memorial day. We are pleased to join the member in reminding us of the tragic genocide of the Armenian people in 1915. This memorial will symbolize the tragedy of the Armenian nation and will remind us that these holocausts should never be perpetrated again.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to be in attendance when the Premier presented a proclamation on behalf of the people of Ontario on this very special occasion. I urge all members to

attend the official unveiling of the monument commemorating this occasion. The ceremony will be held here in Toronto at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I would like to join the other members of the House in paying special recognition to the Armenian community and the memorial to their suffering in the past.

This has come up many times in the House. My first time in the Legislature I remember Jim Renwick, the then member for Riverdale, speaking very passionately about the need for this province to recognize the very special problem in the history of the Armenian people on an ongoing basis as part of their struggle. I am pleased to be able to join with other members and expect that many of us will be able to be at the unveiling.

SPECIAL WARRANTS

Hon. Ms. Caplan: In accordance with section 51 of the standing orders of the assembly, I am tabling the special warrants that were issued when the Legislature was not in session. Copies of these special warrants have been placed in the postal boxes of the members.

When the Legislature is not in session, a special warrant is issued by the Lieutenant Governor under section 4 of the Management Board of Cabinet Act authorizing expenditures of an urgent nature for which there is no existing appropriation.

One special warrant provides for general and necessary government expenditures on and after April 1, 1986. The other provides for the general and necessary expenditures of the Office of the Provincial Auditor, the Office of the Chief Election Officer and the Office of the Ombudsman on and after April 1, 1986.

Since authority for making payments had to be in place on April 1 for the beginning of the new fiscal year and the House was not in session, the two special warrants were required. If the House had been in session, the expenditures authorized by the special warrants would have been approved by way of interim supply granted by the Legislature.

2:10 p.m.

TRADE, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAMS

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Today I am tabling background papers that detail the vital importance to the Ontario economy of trade, small business and entrepreneurship, and technology.

These papers demonstrate why we are concentrating our attention and resources on their rapid growth and development.

Ontario's economic health is closely linked to our success as an international trader. Our leading industrial competitors in the United States and the European Community present substantial opportunities for enhanced trade and technological exchange. Ontario is well positioned through its existing trade and investment infrastructure to move ahead and to make greater competitive gains in these areas.

However, the fastest-growing region in the world today is the Pacific Rim. Ontario has only just begun to penetrate that market, and we must intensify our efforts to build strong investment, trade, technological and cultural links with the nations of the Pacific Rim.

The speech from the throne made several announcements in support of this thrust, including a major trade and investment mission, the appointment of an Agent General to Japan and the opening of a trade and investment office in Seoul, Korea.

Further to these announcements, my ministry will launch a Pacific Rim outreach program to provide graduates and other commercially oriented young people with the opportunity to learn the language, culture and business practices of Pacific Rim countries. The government will conduct a province-wide competition to select the best and the brightest to participate in the program. Forty-five young people will be involved over a three-year period.

My ministry will also establish the capital projects ambassadors program to increase awareness abroad and opportunities for the services and the products of Ontario-based firms. The program will sponsor 20 young graduates in engineering and consulting from Pacific Rim countries to come to Ontario for one year to receive on-the-job training with Ontario firms. The program will be a building block to obtaining future business contracts in the region.

The Ontario International Corp. will focus particular attention on the export of the specialized public-sector knowledge and expertise we have developed in Ontario in areas such as policing, public transportation, health care and municipal affairs management.

My ministry will develop and maintain a directory of competent business translators and interpreters in all regions of Ontario.

The government also recognizes the ongoing contribution of small business and individual entrepreneurs.

Earlier this month, I announced the formation of the committee of parliamentary assistants for small business headed by my parliamentary assistant, the member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro). I intend to use this committee as a sounding board and source of advice on new ways to improve my ministry's programs and services.

Today I am pleased to announce a further initiative in support of small business activity in Ontario. I am appointing the member for Wellington South as small business advocate for Ontario. Reporting directly to me, he will be responsible on an ongoing and full-time basis for promoting the concerns and interests of small business within the government and with the general public. He will act as liaison between small business associations and other groups, particularly educators and other industry sectors.

One of the most significant barriers to growth faced by small firms is a lack of available equity capital. I believe we need to tap the large pool of savings that exists in the hands of already successful entrepreneurs and other professionals and put it to productive use.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology will establish with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce the Ontario investment network. The network will operate through the 160 local offices of the chamber and offer a computer-based service to match potential investors with suitable entrepreneurs.

The government's role in the investment network will be to refer business people to the service and assist them to develop business plans, to develop and disseminate informational material on how to structure investments and to provide startup funding to assist the chamber in promotional activities. On the other hand, the Ontario chamber will promote the network, provide space and computer facilities, and process and match applications.

The government believes this community-based instrument will, at a very low cost, put existing financial resources to work for all Ontarians. I am tabling a background paper on the Ontario investment network that documents and supports the Ontario chamber's new risk-capital initiative.

My ministry will modernize and revitalize the Ontario development corporations so they are better equipped to serve small business in Ontario. To strengthen lending operations in northern and eastern Ontario, the corporations will open new, community-based offices in both regions. A renewed emphasis on customer

service will be stressed so the development corporations match current standards of performance in the financial services industry.

As announced in the speech from the throne, the Premier's council will be the focal point for activities designed to guide Ontario into the front ranks of world-competitive economies. Details regarding the composition of the council and the precise role it will play will be announced in the near future.

My ministry's offices in Europe and Asia are being given the additional mandate to appoint technological attachés who will be responsible for searching out critical new technologies that are most appropriate for transfer to Ontario firms through licences or joint ventures.

I believe the initiatives I have described are examples of approaches to assisting industry in Ontario to take advantage of and participate in technological advances, to use and develop their personnel skills and expertise, to become more effective and successful entrepreneurs and to expand their horizons within Canada and abroad.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I wish to report to honourable members on the status of the collective bargaining dispute involving All-Way Transportation Corp. in Metropolitan Toronto and Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

As members know, All-Way provides an outstanding and critically important daily Wheel-Trans transportation service to disabled people. There are 14,000 disabled men, women and children who are registered users of the service. For them the strike of the 178 operators and maintenance workers employed by All-Way that has been going on for the past 10 days constitutes a terrible hardship.

On a typical day, Wheel-Trans carries about 1,000 disabled people to and from their destinations within Metropolitan Toronto. About one third to one half of these trips involve getting people to and from work. The rest involve such activities as medical treatment, shopping for food and other goods and services, and recreation.

Since the strike began, supervisors have been able to provide some service, but the fact remains that only four vehicles have been in operation as opposed to the usual 70-plus. Understandably, these vehicles have been dedicated to serving about 50 people who require such essential medical treatment as kidney dialysis and chemotherapy.

Some of the 14,000 registered users of the Wheel-Trans service have been able to secure rides with family and friends. Some have had to use taxicabs, adding expense to considerable discomfort.

These options, however, are realistically available only to those who are not severely disabled. Severely disabled people, many of whom use electric wheelchairs, which are heavy and do not fold, really need a properly equipped vehicle. I understand there is a private service that operates about six such vehicles, but I also understand it is expensive and that availability might be a problem if the strike were prolonged.

I point out that the Ministry of Community and Social Services has mounted an emergency assistance plan for its own disabled clients who have not been able to make alternative arrangements and who need rides for essential reasons. That ministry has also established a telephone help line to provide information to any disabled inquirer who may be experiencing difficulty because of the strike.

Some of the short-term impacts of the strike on disabled people are clear. They involve inconvenience, the loss of independence and the loss of employment income. As Minister of Labour, I am particularly sensitive to a possible threat to security of employment for disabled men and women in both the immediate term and the longer term.

I am very pleased to note that thus far there is little hard evidence of disabled people losing their jobs as a direct result of the strike. However, I must tell this House I fear a prolonged strike could possibly add to the reluctance some employers might have about hiring disabled people who depend totally on specialized forms of public transportation.

If I may, I want to spend a few minutes setting out for members the essential collective bargaining background to the current situation.

All-Way operates the Wheel-Trans program under contract to the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. The current collective agreement between the company and the 178 employees represented by Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union expired on December 31, 1985.

2:20 p.m.

The current strike began on Monday, April 14, despite intensive settlement efforts by the parties with the assistance of officials of my ministry. During the first week of the strike, these efforts intensified. An all-night mediation session took place last Thursday, culminating in a memorandum of settlement at midday on Friday, April 18.

The settlement proposal was put to a membership vote last Sunday. Despite the fact that the settlement was signed and unanimously recommended by the union's negotiating committee, it was rejected by a vote of 89 to 52.

My senior officials have now advised me that their discussions with the parties show a collective agreement cannot be reached without a prolonged strike. After discussions with my colleagues, we have decided that such hardship cannot be tolerated by members of the handicapped community.

Therefore, I wish to inform the House that later this afternoon I will introduce legislation to bring an end to this dispute.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Pope: My question is for the Premier. The speech from the throne of Tuesday of this week made no reference whatsoever to immediate job creation programs. The basic industries of this province and, more important, the workers in those basic industries—the mill workers, the bush workers, the miners, the steelworkers—are not even mentioned. Is this an oversight on the part of the Premier or was it intentional that these workers and industries are not important enough to be addressed in the speech from the throne?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: To the honourable critic at large, may I welcome him back to the House and say what a pleasure it is to see him here. What did he do with the other two? Where is he hiding them?

The speech from the throne was not intended to address every issue in the province. It created a broad thrust, and my honourable colleague opposite will know that a number of the basic industries are involved in structural transformations into higher-technology adaptations, productions and other matters. We are very cognizant of that. This government remains very supportive of those basic industries. He could go through that list and find his name was not mentioned either, but it does not mean we do not care about him.

Mr. Pope: The Premier can be as flippant and as condescending as he wants. We have seen a 65 per cent increase in the layoffs in January and February of this year across this province. How is his speech from the throne going to help the 1,500 steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie? How is it going to help the miners in Wawa? How is it going to help the workers here in Toronto who have been laid off or those who are facing layoffs?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. Pope: Why has the Premier not dealt with that number one issue in this province in the speech from the throne?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable critic at large is reading without spectacles. He would be aware, if he wants to be fair-minded about this situation, that employment is up 180,000 over the last year. We have, I would remind my honourable friend, the lowest unemployment rate in this country. I am not suggesting for a moment that is good enough, and we are aspiring to be even better.

My honourable friend will realize the economy is going through structural transformation. It is not going to be, in the future, the way it was in the past. He who concentrated all his efforts on the past knows what that can do to him. That is why we have a forward-looking, visionary program that will provide retraining and new opportunities for people who are unfortunately shunted aside in some of the transformations. This government is even more aware of the problems than he is, and we are doing something about them.

Mr. Pope: The Premier has referred to his high-technology funds. He has talked in the speech from the throne about world-class technologies here in Ontario and he is talking about the year 2000. Is the Premier not aware that on April 12, 1985, he said, "The previous government was prepared to spend \$1 billion of taxpayers money with absolutely no job guarantees. It is the height of irresponsibility"? That is exactly what he has done.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot buy those remarks. This is not a fund that will be applied to building marinas; it is not a reallocation of funds from other departments wrapped up in a fancy title such as the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. We do not have the kind of creative imagination the member has.

This is specifically directed to enhancing the productivity and the competitiveness of the economy of Ontario, and when my fair-minded friend opposite sees the results of this, I am sure he will stand up in this House and say, "Thank the Lord we had some creative leadership in this government."

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Andrewes: My question is to the Premier. He is quoted today as saying that his government's Bill 94 is draconian, and he criticizes his former friends in the New Democratic Party for wanting to jam the bill down the

doctors' throats. That is a direct quote from the Toronto Sun.

Will the Premier agree today to hoist Bill 94 and instruct his emissary the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) to negotiate with the doctors fairly and reasonably?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We have been negotiating fairly and reasonably with the doctors. Discussions are going on and we are searching for a negotiated settlement, if that is possible. The honourable member is aware of the difficulties, obviously, where I have disagreed with my friends in the New Democratic Party. Their approach, as I read about it, would have been just to jam the bill in without discussions, without trying to negotiate a settlement.

Mr. Davis: That is what the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) did.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to my honourable colleague opposite, he is completely oblivious to the facts in this situation. The minister has been conducting an ongoing series of meetings. It is our view that progress is being made. I cannot guarantee a resolution of this, but I can tell the member that he has seen an example of real leadership on an issue rather than running away and changing our position, as the members opposite do all the time.

Mr. Andrewes: The positions are changing minute by minute. Although the negotiations have been conducted in secret with the Ontario Medical Association, the Premier continues to muse about possibilities and about the content of the so-called 10-point program. Can he tell us now exactly what he is negotiating with the OMA?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer is that we are not discussing in public—the minister has not discussed in public and neither has anyone else who has been part of those discussions—what has been on the table. I told the member then and I will tell him again: we are not going to discuss that.

I refer the member to his honourable leader, who said on a number of occasions when he was negotiating with the doctors that he was not prepared to negotiate in this House and he was not prepared to negotiate in public, because that is not constructive.

If the OMA wants to tell the member what was discussed, that is its prerogative. I can tell my honourable friend I do not think it is constructive towards reaching a resolution to discuss those details in the House.

Mr. Andrewes: It is a little difficult to understand how the government can, on the one hand, declare that the legislation will definitely be passed, as it did in the throne speech, and yet, on the other hand, continue to say it would prefer a negotiated settlement.

I find the Premier's comments quite trite and flip. The people of this province deserve some answers from him. His comments have been misleading to the members of this House, to the members of the standing committee on social development and to the OMA.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member withdraw the remark "misleading this House"?

Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, my comments—

Mr. Speaker: Yes or no?

Mr. Andrewes: My comments were that—

Mr. Speaker: Yes or no?

Mr. Andrewes: —the comments of the Premier were misleading. I did not indicate that the Premier had misled the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member withdraw the comment "misleading this House"?

Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, in the light of your interpretation of my comments, I will withdraw them. May I proceed with my question?

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question.
2:30 p.m.

Mr. Andrewes: Is the Premier saying that if he can negotiate a settlement with the OMA, he will amend the legislation and bring it back to the House for passage? Or is he saying that if the Attorney General is unsuccessful in his negotiation, he is going to ram the legislation through? Which one is it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Is the member looking for a yes-or-no answer? The position of this government is that we are going to end extra billing. As I said before, there are many ways to do that; there are many details that can be negotiated. The Minister of Health is in discussion on those matters and we hope to reach some kind of accommodation. Obviously, we are going to end extra billing. That is the answer to the member's question.

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Premier and it concerns a number of statements that have been made by him and by others about extra billing.

Can he explain what is draconian and what is undemocratic about meeting one's commitments to the public, made not only during an election campaign but also in an accord signed with this

party? What kind of democracy is it when the Premier of the province refuses to commit the government publicly to a timetable on a bill that has been discussed at great length in committee and in this Legislature and that took the government six months to introduce? When will third reading of this bill finally be introduced so that we can get on with the end to extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Frankly, I am surprised at my honourable friend. I am surprised that the member—who speaks so much about and has such great respect for the parliamentary process, who understands that this bill is in the hands of a committee and that there have been hearings on the matter, and who believes that people should be widely consulted—would not give that parliamentary process a chance to operate. Even though my friends opposite do not have anything worthwhile to say, they should have an opportunity to contribute, should they feel they want to. That is why we are consulting widely.

It is in the hands of the committee. It will be reported back to the House. Amendments will be made. As the member knows, he has an opportunity and the party opposite has an opportunity to contribute to those amendments. I do not feel that I am the dictator of this province. Sometimes when socialists have a little power, they do feel they are dictators.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the question has been answered.

Mr. Rae: The committee hearings were concluded and the Premier's party and the Tory party took that bill off the committee's agenda. That is the parliamentary action that his party has taken with respect to extra billing. Those are the facts, and if the Premier regards that as democracy in action, then that is his particular definition.

Dr. Moran is quoted as having said yesterday, "We are willing to meet until the cows come home." That is the position the OMA has taken. In addition to rejecting the \$53-million slush fund the Premier put forward as a solution to the problem, they said, "We are willing to meet until the cows come home."

Is the Premier going to go along with that approach of meeting until the cows go home while patients are being extra billed \$1 million a week—more than \$40 million since the election on May 2, 1985?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend, if he has read the throne speech, will understand that we took a number of initiatives with respect to the health of farm animals. I think he will find those cows will be coming home sooner under

our administration than they would have under other administrations.

Mr. Andrewes: What amendments does the Premier propose to Bill 94?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: They will all be in the committee, and the honourable member will have his opportunity to contribute in his very positive and constructive ways. We look forward to that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In view of the fact that the Premier's government started public hearings on banning extra billing last fall through the district health councils, in which the OMA refused to participate, and then we have had public hearings in the standing committee on social development—it has now been six months and the patients in this province will never recover the \$24 million of extra billing—is the Premier prepared to tell the Legislature today that when the bill is reported in about two weeks' time it will be called immediately for third reading?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend, we must be satisfied that it has run through the parliamentary processes and we have had full hearings. I am mindful of the point he makes. It is not a bad point.

Let me draw a parallel for him. When we got into the discussion on the separate school issue, he will recall the previous government did nothing for a year. There were no consultations; nothing happened. We as a government decided we should have full consultations as well as take the issue to the courts. That was our approach. It still is not solved and it is currently two years old. We hope we are close to a resolution.

This is an equally difficult issue for a number of people and I know there are simplistic views of the situation. I reiterate, we are committed to ending extra billing. There is a variety of alternatives in ways to do this kind of thing and we want to be satisfied that we have had full hearings and that people have had an opportunity to speak on this issue. We do not want to shut off the democratic process. I cannot give the member a specific date but I say to my friend, the cows will be coming home sooner rather than later.

Mr. Rae: There is nothing more undemocratic and draconian than extra billing itself.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Rae: I have a question to the Premier with respect to another issue which concerns a great many people in northern Ontario. Why did the government not know earlier of the decision

announced last week by Algoma Steel on the layoff of 1,500 workers, potentially in both the Sault and the town of Wawa? Why was that information not taken by the government and then an alternative plan developed? Why has the government been put in a position of simply putting out brush fires? I understand a committee of deputy ministers has been appointed. Why has it not yet contacted the workers affected in both the Sault and Wawa? Can the Premier explain why that is the case in Ontario today?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It will come as no surprise to my honourable friend that for some time there have been troubles with Algoma in the Sault. He knew that, I knew that and I think every member of this House knew that; the members from the Sault area in particular.

All has not been well in the steel industry. We have seen a downsizing in the number of people employed as it has been going through a restructuring. None of this brings me any cheer or joy but those are the realities; so we have been familiar with them.

The member will be aware that two days ago in our throne speech a number of specific thrusts were taken and in the near future they will be amplified with respect to broadening the economic base of northern Ontario. There is no question about that. We are sensitive to those problems and are working with them. There have been meetings with the company and others and a number of initiatives are now in mind to try to assist the community in this situation. It is troublesome. There is not an easy solution that I can put my finger on and I suspect the member cannot either.

Mr. Rae: The Premier mentioned the throne speech. Can he tell us why there was no mention in the throne speech of mining, steel or forestry, the basic industries in northern Ontario, and no mention of what the prospects are for those workers faced with the kind of change that is there? If he had that sense of reality with respect to the situation in 1986 that faces the Algoma workers and the workers in the Sault, why was the throne speech so full of not that reality and not the need for specific measures, but was a falderal of what may come in 2001 and 2005 in the high-tech future, which apparently leaves all these workers in the lurch?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I heard that speech from the critic at large of the Conservative Party. I do not agree with that interpretation. The member could have mentioned a lot of others. We also did not mention the plastics industry, so he could

have said we were neglecting that. I do not think that is a fair interpretation of what we are doing.

2:40 p.m.

We are talking about technology as it applies to these industries. We understand, as I am sure the member does, the restructuring that is going on. We are there to assist and to guarantee a future for these people who are unfortunate byproducts of these transformations. We are working with retraining funds. My colleague has a number of plans for these people, but we have to move with these new realities, and we are doing that.

Obviously it troubles us, but we cannot wave a magic wand. This House cannot pass any act that is going to change the situation in broad terms, and I think the member understands that. That is why we are working with many people, including the member to the immediate left of the member opposite, to look at alternatives to broaden the economic base of northern Ontario: tourism, hydro and a variety of others.

Mr. Pope: We are talking about the most important issue facing this province today. We are talking about spiralling layoffs in virtually every basic industry in this province. The Premier has not recognized that priority in his throne speech.

Last year in Sudbury, the Premier said he could not do anything to solve the unemployment problems there. Are we going to see the same attitude from him now with respect to the Algoma Steel layoffs in Sault Ste. Marie, the miners in Wawa or the mill workers at Kimberly-Clark in Thunder Bay? Is the Premier's approach that he cannot do anything? He has not announced an immediate job creation program; when is he going to do that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: For the information of my friend, Kimberly-Clark is in Terrace Bay.

Some of the problems we are facing today are there because the previous government ignored them for 40 years. The members opposite are the ones who thought of things only in terms of their political options in the short term. Does the honourable member think all this developed in the past nine months? I cannot believe even my friend the critic at large would be intellectually dishonest enough to stand up and say these things developed in the past nine months.

We are now in the process of building a future for northern Ontario, for southern Ontario, for eastern Ontario, for the entire province. We see the future far more clearly than the member did. The members opposite only saw the future in

terms of the next election, and look what happened to them.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I beg to differ with the Premier on his throne speech. It presents a fairyland vision of a high-technology 21st century, bearing no relationship to the economic realities facing northern Ontario today. It is about time his government recognized the unique problems of northern communities dependent on single industries.

What specific action can the Premier announce today that will give assurance of economic growth and control over their economic future to the people of Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and other communities in the north?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I talked to the honourable member's leader a few moments ago about some of the initiatives undertaken in the throne speech. We are going to continue to do that.

With respect to specific problems in Sault Ste. Marie and potential problems in Wawa, a committee of deputy ministers is meeting on those problems. I am mindful of the problems of single-industry towns right across the province. This is nothing new. The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) has been talking about it for the past 10 years; we are now in the process of addressing it. When the member sees the full result of our initiatives, he will stand up in this House and praise the government.

PAYROLL TAX

Miss Stephenson: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The minister has demonstrated that he believes in the need to support small business through some of the initiatives he has announced today. We are pleased he has accepted totally the idea, the program and the plan developed by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for the network concept for small business, which will be very helpful. That is a reasonable acceptance on his part.

Given that obvious support for small business, I wonder whether the minister will give us an absolute undertaking that he will oppose totally the government's plan to introduce a payroll tax on business to fund the health care system in this province today.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I am aware of no such plan. If the honourable member has information on such, I would appreciate receiving it from her.

Miss Stephenson: We shall be very glad to send him all the news clippings of the expounded statements of the Premier of this province regarding this matter and some of the documentation that is at hand as well.

It is intriguing that the minister has appointed a flexible wand to act as an antenna with the small business community.

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary, please.

Miss Stephenson: It is important too that the small, flexible wand and the minister recognize the concern that has been expressed on a number of occasions by the small business group in this province, both by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which would demonstrate clearly that the burden of the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member place her supplementary question?

Miss Stephenson: I will be pleased to, and I will not accuse the minister of being intellectually dishonest, which the Premier accused my colleague of being.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Miss Stephenson: I believe that is unparliamentary, and the Speaker said nothing about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member place her supplementary question? It is question period.

Miss Stephenson: I shall be pleased to do so. Thank you very much.

I am sure the minister is aware they have grave concerns about the cost of the payroll tax to small business. Will he please ensure that kind of activity will not become an integral part of the health care funding program in Ontario if he wants to keep jobs in that important sector of business?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: This minister and this government are very aware of how important small business is and how many jobs it creates in the economy. I can assure the member that, with the interest we take in small businesses, anything that would be counter to making them successful will be carefully examined.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Premier.

Since he has acknowledged, despite the rosy picture painted in his throne speech, that there is an economic crisis in northern Ontario and that there has been a series of layoffs at Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa in the Algoma Steel operation since 1982, will he respond to the unemployment rate, which is already over 20 per cent in that area, and tell us what specific government programs and initiatives his government is going to take that will deal with the direct, permanent job loss of 1,500 more jobs and the possible

spinoff effects of up to 3,000 or 4,000 jobs affecting Algoma Central Railway, the lumber industry in the area, the tourist industry and the whole business community?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I can tell the honourable member that northern Ontario has never had a more passionate or knowledgeable advocate than the minister who is now responsible for it. However, let me be fair. I do not want to be unfair about this, because we have discussed these issues over many years, and there are a number of members in this House who have brought those concerns here eloquently. I include the member for Algoma and many others when I make that remark.

In the last budget, we put aside \$100 million, an unprecedented sum, in a northern development fund. However, there is no one solution to the problem, as the member knows; there is a multiplicity of smaller ones. We have launched the initiatives already. I can only repeat what I said to his colleague who asked me roughly the same question: We have undertaken that process with understanding and commitment.

I look forward to working with my colleague, as does the minister; I know they work closely on these matters. We will make sure those moneys are allocated properly for the maximum impact on employment in northern Ontario. We have a lot of work to do in tourism, hydro, small business development, resource development and many other areas, which I think is going to be very constructive in the long term.

Mr. Morin-Strom: It is clear there is a need for greater public and governmental understanding of the economy of northern Ontario and the consequences of decisions such as this on cities such as Sault Ste. Marie when massive layoffs are announced. Now that the Premier has had an opportunity to be briefed on the Sault crisis, will he support the call by our party that a legislative committee be empowered to conduct a comprehensive public inquiry into the actions of Algoma Steel and its implications for the economy of Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma district?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member is an economist. Am I correct in saying he worked for Algoma? I am sure he is in a position to stand up and tell some of his colleagues the reality and perhaps even enhance their knowledge of the situation in the steel industry and others.

I do not think it is particularly constructive to have a committee on every company that has layoffs in this province at present. I am not sure; the member has given them the benefit of his knowledge in the past, and look where they are today. If the member feels something constructive can be done, we are amenable to any positive suggestions. If his suggestion is that every single time there is a layoff a committee of this House should try to second-guess a company or run it differently, I am not persuaded a committee of this House could run Algoma any better than it is being run at present.

Mr. Gillies: All the Premier's hand-wringing is not doing anybody in Sault Ste. Marie or anywhere else any good. There is an unemployment rate in the Sault area that is unacceptably high. Four per cent of the population of that city is on welfare. Apart from his navel-gazing about the year 2000, what is his government prepared to do now to assist that community?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member phrased the question eloquently, but I answered it when I responded to the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom). The member for Brantford is not suggesting we pass a bill preventing those layoffs, is he? If he is, he should stand up and say so. I have not seen anything constructive out of his party on this issue in the past 40 years.

COLOURED FUEL

Mr. McGuigan: My question is for the Minister of Revenue. Is the minister aware that the Manitoba government has made it possible for farm users of diesel fuel to add dye to the fuel to identify it as tax-exempt fuel at the United States-Canada border, thereby allowing those users to take advantage of the 10 per cent to 15 per cent saving for diesel fuel purchases south of the border? I am sure the minister is aware that diesel fuel prices have not fallen with the prices of other fuels in Ontario. Will the minister investigate making a similar arrangement to benefit the farmers who are already suffering from high production costs and low commodity prices?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The government is anxious to do everything it can having to do with fuel prices and any other assistance that is possible for farmers. I have asked officials in the Ministry of Revenue to look at the alternative the honourable member put forward in his question. We are anxious to keep fuel prices as low as possible.

Mr. Ashe: As was indicated by the minister's colleague, there has not been a close association

between the downturn in gasoline prices and in those of diesel fuel, the fuel where the colouring is added. While his ministry is looking at the whole issue of coloured fuel, will he at the same time speak to his colleagues the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter)—perhaps as Treasurer he will look into it himself—to see why there has not been a further pass-through in the total cost of fuel, including coloured fuel? Why does he not look at the dastardly Fuel Tax Act, which is keeping the price of gasoline higher? It is gouging.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I was informed by the Minister of Energy on Tuesday, the day before yesterday, that the price of diesel fuel had begun to descend. We expect it to go down further. We have no plans to review the motor vehicle fuel tax in the immediate future.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, small business advocate and Pacific Rim developer, with respect to a speech he made some months ago in Washington in which he made some comments reflecting on the issue of free trade and indicated in a direct sense that he was very much in favour of some form of free trade agreement with the United States.

That statement seems to run in direct contradiction to the statements made by his leader, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who has been very negative and convoluted in his statements on this subject. What is the minister's position on it? Is he, as is the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine), a passionate advocate of free trade? What is the Premier's position? What is the government's position on this issue? Can the minister clarify where he stands?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: My position is the same as the Premier's. We have to approach this topic very cautiously and have answers before we consent totally to it.

Mr. Brandt: This is probably the number one economic issue in this entire province. The minister talks about expanding free trade to the Pacific Rim. I want the government to know I endorse those efforts and am totally behind them. However, we started them; so why would the government not carry them out? It has picked up every good idea we have had.

Does the minister recognize that 90 per cent of our trade goes to the United States? If he wants to secure markets in that jurisdiction, the minister

had better send some clear signals on where his government stands.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe the signals have been very strong. They point out exactly how we feel about the subject.

Mr. Foulds: On the same subject of free trade, I would like to direct my question to the Premier. Given that the Mulroney government has sacrificed foreign investment review, the national energy program and cruise missile testing as well as low-cost generic drugs in its pursuit of fast-track negotiations with the United States, and given that the speech from the throne was absolutely silent on the subject, can the Premier categorically assure us that Ontario's lumber, steel and auto jobs have not been sacrificed in the last round of wheeling and dealing in Washington?

If the Premier is quoted correctly as saying, "We must be very firm in our resolve not to give anything away," how can he support free trade negotiations led by Mr. Mulroney, who said last night, "You can be certain that there are going to be concessions"?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member raises a very good question. I cannot stand in my place and give absolute assurance that no concessions or deals were made anywhere. I was not a party to those discussions. I do not know the answer to the question of whether there were special concessions.

Mr. Foulds: When the hell is the Premier going to stand up for Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member will notice that we have on many occasions. I do not know what transpired in the arm-twisting that went on in the Senate committee in the United States among the administration, the President's office and that particular committee to get the vote of yesterday. The 10-10 vote on the veto was a tie but was construed as a victory. I do not know whether any deals were made on lumber, steel, pharmaceuticals or anything else. I do not know whether the Canadian officials have made any deals in that regard.

This government has stood firm in its protection of the consumers in Ontario and Canada with respect to the pharmaceutical situation. We stood firm on the auto pact and a lot of other things. The concessions the member asks about worry me as well. I do not know what they will be in the future. However, I assure the member that this government will stay vigilant in the protection of Ontario's interests.

Mr. Mackenzie: The Premier knows Senator Packwood has said there is not a fish that swims, a crop grown or a widget made that is not to be subject to negotiations. As well, all the members of the select committee on economic affairs who were in Washington heard very clearly from the Americans that everything had to be on the table in the course of the trade talks.

With some 550,000 Ontario jobs at stake, why did the five Liberal members on that committee vote with the four Tory members to endorse the Mulroney initiative in the free trade talks? Can the Premier tell us when he will get off the fence? Can he tell us clearly where his party really stands so we will have some influence before we sell this province down the river?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member has been following this issue for a long time, and he knows where this government stands. The federal government also knows where this government stands, as do a lot of other people who are discussing the matter.

3 p.m.

With respect to the theoretical issue of having discussion about enhanced access, we are prepared to listen to that. It is this government, and no other government in this country, that has stood firm on a number of important issues. We have been well prepared for these discussions and we will continue to be so. I assure my honourable friend that we will remain vigilant in the protection of those interests. We are not going to let this country be steamrollered in these discussions.

That is why we have been fighting for provincial participation. That is the reason for what happened at the Halifax conference, which the member will recall, and for what happened subsequent to that. That is why we insist on a wide provincial role, setting a mandate so that we do not walk into the kind of situations the member talks about. I can assure him we will continue to play a national leadership role.

Mr. Brandt: Contrary to what the Premier might think, there are very few people in Ontario who know his position, the government's position, or that of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil).

When is the Premier going to clarify where he stands on this issue and stop this Pontius Pilate routine of washing his hands of all responsibility, as he has been doing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, what is the honourable member's position? I have seen at least six or eight positions from his party. What is

the federal position? We are negotiating and we have not said we would walk away from that, but we are negotiating under certain terms and conditions. The member knows as well what we have said about the auto pact and a variety of other matters, so when my friend stands up in a bluster, playing holier than thou, let me say that the members of his party would have rolled over on their backs and this country would be in bad shape.

KNOWLEDGE WORKERS

Mr. McFadden: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Would he define for this House and for the province the meaning of the words "knowledge workers" as set out in the speech from the throne?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not have a dictionary definition of the term "knowledge workers." The member opposite is a person of some substantial intellect. He knows what we are talking about in that context is workers who work in an information-based society that will depend on abilities to deal with the high-technology world into which we are moving. He knows that as well I do.

Mr. McFadden: Perhaps we have just now seen an example of what a knowledgeable politician is not; I am not sure. Are we to infer from that definition set out by the minister that the rest of the work force in Ontario could be defined as "unknowledgeable" or "unknowledge workers"?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The answer is no.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Swart: In view of the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter), I would like to put a question on gasoline prices to the Premier.

The Canadian president of Shell has admitted that his company has been and is skimming off two or three cents a litre that would otherwise be passed on to the consumers in Ontario through lower gasoline prices. Given that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations said yesterday that he was very unhappy about the high gasoline and oil prices generally throughout much of Ontario, would the Premier tell us exactly what intervention he or the minister has made with those oil companies to force prices down? What has the Premier or the minister said to them, verbally or in writing, to tell them that the prices must be lowered?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot give the honourable member all the details of that. The

Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is not here today, but I will inquire of him and ask him about his specific interventions. I am like the member for Welland-Thorold: I found to be extraordinary the statement made by the president of Shell today that he was pocketing two or three cents a litre. The member can rest assured we will be looking at this.

Mr. Swart: When the Premier is giving some thought—he obviously has not given any so far—to the action the minister has taken, will he recall that 11 years ago when the present Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) was Leader of the Opposition he proposed legislation to provide ongoing power for the government of Ontario to control gasoline prices at a reasonable level? Why does the Premier not now dry his crocodile tears and do exactly what the Treasurer previously proposed and show he is prepared to protect consumers with something more than just rhetoric?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was not born when the Treasurer was elected to this House and I am not familiar with all the things he has said over the last years, but I can tell the member that I have found him always to be wise and far-seeing in the things he has said. So many of the things he has said in the past years are coming true. I am not aware of that specific quote of 11 years ago. We should perhaps look into it, but the member is very well aware that the federal government controls this issue and not us.

Mr. Ashe: As the Premier well knows, it was the amendments to the Gasoline Tax Act by the Treasurer, supported by this party to our left which is supposedly the consumer-oriented party, that are now causing gasoline prices to be two to three cents higher than they should be. We told the Premier it was going to happen. What is he going to do to pass some relief on to the consumers of this province to undo what the Liberal and New Democratic parties perpetrated?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: This party is very grateful to have support from wherever it can find it. We are grateful for the wisdom of the New Democratic Party on this issue. I assume the Progressive Conservative Party believes in fiscal responsibility. The member will notice that we brought the net cash requirements down. A certain amount of money has to be raised to finance roads, hospitals, schools and northern development—all the things that the member's friends in the front row were asking about today. When he looks at the evenhanded and fair-minded way in which we extract tax dollars in

this province, I am sure he will agree it is a fair system.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Low-cost rental apartments are disappearing at an alarming rate in Toronto. What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I would like to remind the honourable member that the assured housing policy addressed what we were going to do about it. Also, if he is making reference to any of those stocks that we are losing by demolition or conversion, he knows we are addressing that matter seriously and it will be introduced in the House shortly.

Mr. Gordon: There is a lot of fear in the hearts of tenants in Toronto, especially when they see their friends or relatives—some of their parents—being evicted from low-cost rental housing because that low-cost rental housing is going to be made into luxury housing. What we need is affordable housing, not more luxury housing. How does he explain his failure to do anything about renovations in this city?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I am surprised the member feels we are not doing anything about it.

Mr. Brandt: Tell us about your program.

Mr. Villeneuve: Let us in on the secret.

Hon. Mr. Curling: There is no secret to it. As a matter of fact, as I said, the members will shortly see what we will be doing about addressing the loss of those affordable rental stocks.

DAY CARE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. There are many amusing things in the throne speech, such as the words "knowledge workers" and so on, which we can all now drop into our world-class jargon. One thing that was very disappointing was the absence of any promises on day care, except for some more spaces.

What happened to the great white paper on day care that I hear the minister prepared and took into cabinet committees several times? Why was there no mention of that in the throne speech? Did the cabinet gag on the financial implications or is this a backing-off on his party's commitment to children of working parents and the commitment the government made to us in the accord of a move away from welfare-based day care? Was the minister mugged in the halls of power?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The reference to day care in the throne speech clearly identified two needs. One was for more spaces, but it did not stop there. It also made a reference to economic equity and clearly indicated that the problems of accessibility, affordability and fair wages for day care workers are part of that economic equity. We are clearly saying in that very short but pungent statement that those key issues with respect to day care are all being addressed in the paper which the member knows is well on its way.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That was interesting shorthand. Perhaps "pungent" is a good adjective for it. I did not realize that is what the minister thought of it. Does this mean the minister will make some announcement on day care in a major policy statement during this session? Is he going to talk about direct subsidies to day care operations in this province, some of which now are in danger of closing if the indirect subsidy from the federal government ends as it is supposed to?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The reference to the day care paper indicates it is on its way. It is going through the process. A statement will be made before this session is over. I cannot indicate to the member the specific details of a direct payment. That may or may not be part of it. The member knows that is a serious consideration. He also knows, with respect to the indirect payments some municipalities are receiving at present, we have indicated to each and every one that we will carry it until the end of this year, which is a year longer than the previous government had been willing to do. We are clearly taking those factors into consideration.

Mr. Cousens: Will the minister admit to this House that he has lost the battle in trying to do something for day care inasmuch as it was just an addendum to the throne speech? Will he admit to this House that he has failed to convince the rest of cabinet on the great need for day care?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I will make no such admission, because it would be factually untrue.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Farmers in other provinces are getting financial assistance to get their spring crops in the ground. Why has the minister purposely delayed stabilization payments to the beef farmers of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We have not purposely delayed payments to beef farmers. It has taken some time to get all the information and documentation that was required to make a stabilization payment. There have been some differences at the national tripartite stabilization committee as to how payment should be made, whether it should be on a per-head basis or on a pounds-of-gain basis. Recently, they came to the decision that the payment will be made on a per-head basis this year, but the committee is still sitting to make a determination as to how it will make the payment in 1987.

Some of the programs offered by other provinces are loan programs that do not put as much money into the hands of the farmers as did our Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program. The \$2-billion Alberta program means \$4,000 to the farmer. Our OFFIRR program put as much as \$14,000 into the hands of the farmer. I would talk about our programs if I had the time.

Mr. Stevenson: Alberta has created \$880 million worth of new programs since the minister has been in office. That does not include the Alberta program he is talking about. Will the minister guarantee that the Ontario beef farmers who are in financial trouble will be given a three-week emergency turnaround to put money in their hands so they can have some cash to get their crops in the ground?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We are looking at a number of programs, not only to help the beef farmers but also to help the corn producers. Some of these other people are having difficulty arranging operating credit and getting money to buy seed and fertilizer. For instance, we are rendering support to the corn producers by saying we support the interim payment under stabilization. We are working on these programs. There is a lot more to come. The honourable member should stay tuned.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Grande: My question is to the Minister of Housing with regard to the disappearance of affordable housing units in Metropolitan Toronto and the province as a whole. I understand that early next week the minister will be making a statement as a result of a major plank in the Liberal-NDP accord, with respect to conversions, demolitions, renovations and co-ownership schemes that are being used right now by speculators who gobble up this affordable housing and increase rents by 200 per cent and 300 per cent in Toronto. In view of this, will the minister tell us and the people of the riding of Oakwood—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Grande:—and in particular the tenants of the apartment building on Vaughan Road who have received and are fighting eviction notices, what hope is there that they will be able to live in their affordable homes within a month or two months instead of finding themselves on the street or perhaps in a hostel?

Hon. Mr. Curling: We are concerned about the loss of affordable rental stock not only in Oakwood but all over Ontario. We still are committed to protecting the rental stock that is being lost through demolitions, conversions and all the other stuff the member mentioned.

Mr. Grande: I hope the minister will stop talking about being committed to protecting affordable housing and act. I am telling him—

Mr. Speaker: I hope by way of question.

Mr. Grande: Yes. The minister knows that in a month 150 tenants are going to be losing their apartments. What is he going to do right now? They will be on the streets in a month and they cannot afford to go anywhere else.

Mr. Speaker: You came to the question.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Have I ever let the honourable member down?

We promised to introduce a comprehensive housing policy. We promised to reduce rent increases from six per cent to four per cent. We have come through on all those things we promised. We also stated, as we said in the accord—and we campaigned on that—we were very mindful of the fact that our rental stock is lost through those types of conversions and demolitions. We shall come through. The member will have to wait and see.

Mr. Gordon: The minister said his government promised it would give tenants lower rents. If the tenants in Ontario are to believe what the minister is saying today, why does he say it is historic now that he is going to jack up the rents, give the money to the developers and just leave the tenants in the lurch?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I have to remind my honourable friend that when the Premier (Mr. Peterson) gave me this illustrious job as Minister of Housing, I thought I could consult with the people. They were not speaking to any Minister of Housing at that time. They did not know him. I have been consulting with tenants and landlords.

They have presented me with a report of many recommendations which we are reading and which makes very interesting reading. They are now talking. We will bring forth a policy that will address all the concerns of the member, which

his party should have been concerned about 15 years ago and should have done something about. We are doing something about them now.

ONTARIO HUMANE SOCIETY

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Solicitor General. For more than three months the Ontario Humane Society has been seeking funding from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and the ministry has failed to respond to its needs. I understand its last meeting was in January with the deputy minister. Because of the minister's procrastination, the humane society now has withdrawn the services of two inspectors and 54 agents across this province. What is the minister going to do to ensure proper protection against cruelty to animals in our province?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: We are well aware of the concern of the Ontario Humane Society with regard to funding. It has been under very active review, despite some of the statements it has made to the media that we had cut back on funding and that we had not been in consultation with it. We have been; a letter has gone back to them. We are acting on the issue to try to be sure the funding is there. By the way, they have never yet asked for funding for this year. It is a grant one applies for, and they have never yet applied. It is there and they have been told so in a letter, plus the potential for the increase.

Mr. Sterling: The minister had better talk to the Ontario Humane Society, because it does not believe it has not applied for such a grant or for such help. Every member in this Legislature is receiving letters from people across this province who understand the humane society has asked for this grant. I was talking to the president of the humane society this morning, and he believes he has applied. I ask the minister to take one step and perhaps even give the president a call for a change.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: The record will show that no such request has been made, but we are aware of their desire to have money. They have been negotiated with and talked to in the very last week.

Mr. Harris: Will the minister take the time to call? Will he condescend to make one phone call?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Sure.

Mr. Harris: Thank you. That was the question. Thanks for the answer.

PETITIONS

RENT REVIEW

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I would like to present the following petition:

"We, the undersigned tenants, demand the immediate passage of Bill 78, the Residential Rent Regulation Act, 1985. The act extends rent controls to all tenants in Ontario as promised by the Liberal government of Ontario during the provincial election campaign in 1985."

It is signed by about 2,000 tenants in the city of Windsor.

ABORTION CLINIC

Mr. D. W. Smith: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The petition of the undersigned residents of the riding of Lambton in the province of Ontario, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth that the continued operation within the city of Toronto of the premises known as the Morgentaler Clinic for the stated purpose of performing unlawful abortions is an affront to the law-abiding citizens of the province of Ontario, who presume that the Criminal Code provision, section 251, enacted by your honourable House was meant to be obeyed; and that the visible lack of enforcement of this provision is seriously eroding the protection the Criminal Code affords all citizens of Canada. Permitting such privilege selection in the enforcement of our Criminal Code is seen to jeopardize our basic rights as Canadian citizens living in the province of Ontario.

"Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon parliament to require the government of the province of Ontario to remove any restrictions which may have been placed on the police force of Metropolitan Toronto in regard to the laying of charges under section 251 of the Criminal Code against the operators of the premises known as the Morgentaler Clinic, and to express to the government of the province of Ontario the displeasure of your honourable House in witnessing the refusal of the government to do everything within its power to enforce section 251 of

the Criminal Code as enacted by your honourable House.

"And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray."

This petition is signed by Mrs. Anna Jenniskens and 70 other residents of Lambton county.

Mr. Speaker: I might say to all members that when they are presenting their petitions, it is not necessary to go through all the whereases. I think the "therefore" is probably enough to place on the record.

Mr. Pierce: I beg to present a petition on behalf of some of the residents of the district of Rainy River. I shall read only the "wherefore" of the petition, with your permission, Mr. Speaker.

"Wherefore, the undersigned humbly pray and call upon this Legislature to remove any restrictions which may have been placed on the police force of Metropolitan Toronto in regards to the laying of charges under section 251 of the Criminal Code against the operators of the premises known as the Morgentaler Clinic, and to compel the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario to proceed with charges, and to ensure the enforcement of the law as duly bound to do so." It is dated February 10, 1986.

HOSPITAL CLOSING

Mr. Guindon: I have a petition signed by more than 300 constituents of the riding of Cornwall. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That any decision to close the Macdonnell Memorial Hospital in Cornwall would add to an already unacceptable jobless rate and it would only serve to add to unemployment and welfare rolls.

"We request the reassessment of this so-called cost-saving proposal so as to not cause undue hardship on employees of the Macdonnell Memorial Hospital and that guarantees of no job losses be put in place should the Ministry of Health proceed with the building of another facility in Cornwall."

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are a lot of private conversations. I do not know whether they are all necessary—they may be—but they are certainly noisy.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: I was presented this morning with a petition signed by 1,917 citizens of the city of Cornwall who object to the practice of extra

billing. I advise the House that I shall be presenting it with a copy of that petition.

Mr. Guindon: I have another petition from the people of my riding. It was brought to me by the Cornwall Academy of Medicine. It is from those who are against the Health Care Accessibility Act.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Mr. McNeil from the standing committee on the Ombudsman, and pursuant to the order of the House on February 12, 1986, presented the committee's 13th report and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

On motion by Mr. McNeil, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. McNeil from the standing committee on the Ombudsman, and pursuant to the order of the House on February 12, 1986, presented the committee's 14th report and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

On motion by Mr. McNeil, the debate was adjourned.

MOTIONS

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the appointment of the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) as deputy chairman of the committees of the whole House be continued.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that when the House adjourns today it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 1986.

Mr. McClellan: We have a bit of a problem here, Mr. Speaker. As you are aware, the motion that has just been read by the government House leader flows from the meeting of the three House leaders which took place this morning. I was in attendance at that meeting, together with my colleague from the official opposition and my counterpart in the government party.

This motion is based on an assumed schedule which was approved at that meeting. Quite frankly, it was not communicated to anybody that legislation would be introduced this afternoon for first reading which the government then intended to ask for unanimous consent to proceed to second and third readings. In the 11 years that I have been here since 1975, it has not been my experience that legislation of this type is not

made available to the House leaders prior to its introduction in the House.

3:30 p.m.

I was at the House leaders' meeting from 10:30 in the morning until 12 noon. During the meeting, the Conservative Party members indicated they intended to move an emergency debate on the subject of the Wheel-Trans labour dispute, and we discussed that issue. At two minutes to two I learned that the government intended to move an act entitled the Wheel-Trans Labour Disputes Settlement Act.

I repeat that I was in the government House leader's office from 10:30 in the morning until 12 noon, but I was informed at two minutes to two that the government intended to move an act which obviously could not have been drafted between 12 noon and two minutes to two, nor could it have been printed between 12 noon and two minutes to two.

I do not know whether it is the intention of the government to go back to the practices of the Conservative Party under the House leadership of Eric Winkler, but I am afraid that is the clear impression being communicated here, and it is not acceptable. I ask the government House leader to withdraw his motion that we will adjourn until Monday and not sit tomorrow. If the government does have legislation to put before the House, I fail to understand why we should not be back here tomorrow to deal with it.

Mr. Harris: It is fair to say on behalf of our party that we share the concerns put forward by the honourable House leader for the third party. Our House leader was at the House leaders' meeting today as well and through that time the only discussion of the Wheel-Trans situation was when our House leader, as has been indicated, said we would be moving the emergency debate. There was ample opportunity for the discussion to carry on at the House leaders' meeting as to the government's intention. We find the whole sequence of events in the introduction of this bill most extraordinary.

I do not know whether it is possible today, but in the interest of any possibility of this Legislature being able to carry on with some semblance of order, I suggest the government House leader withdraw the motion and, if it is appropriate at some stage today, the House may agree to revert to motions and it could be placed at that time.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The facts I heard recounted by the House leader for the New Democratic Party are essentially correct. One thing that is not correct is the assumption that I was aware of these matters and failed to communicate them

when I might have. I give my assurance to the honourable member that was not the case.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I did not mean to imply that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: All right. I just wanted to make it clear. Others might have assumed the member was under the impression that I was aware of this matter. I communicated with the leader of the NDP and, I believe, the chief whip of the official opposition as soon as I was informed by the leader of the government that he wished to proceed with this matter in the House. All I can say is that.

Mr. McClellan: That is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: All right. That is significant. The facts as the member puts them are essentially correct.

About the adjournment, which is the matter under discussion, I am sure honourable members are aware that the consideration not to sit tomorrow is one that was an accommodation for a number of members in the House. If the members of the House decide they would like to continue with the work tomorrow, there is no problem with that at all.

The motion I put, which would see the House adjourn until next Monday, was for the convenience of a number of members. I will be very glad to follow the suggestion made by the two opposition House leaders and stand that motion down because I believe in the circumstances it is reasonable so to do.

Mr. Speaker, we may very well put the motion later in the day, with your concurrence and the concurrence of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I understand from all members of the House that this motion will be stood down. Is that correct?

Agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Sweeney, first reading of Bill 2, An Act respecting the Labour Disputes between All-Way Transportation Corporation (Wheel-Trans Division) and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union.

4:58 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Wrye's motion for first reading of Bill 2, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Bennett, Bossy, Bradley, Brandt, Callahan, Caplan, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cousens, Cureatz, Curling, Davis, Dean, Elston, Epp, Eves, Ferraro, Fontaine, Fulton, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Guindon, Haggerty, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kerrio, Knight, Lane, Leluk, Mancini, McCague;

McFadden, McGuigan, McKessock, McLean, McNeil, Miller, G. I., Morin, Munro, Newman, Nixon, O'Connor, Offer, O'Neil, Partington, Peterson, Pierce, Pollock, Polsinelli, Reycraft, Riddell, Rowe, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Sheppard, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Sweeney, Treleaven, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Ward, Wrye, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Foulds, Gigantes, Grande, Grier, Johnston, R. F., Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Morin-Strom, Pouliot, Rae, Reville, Swart, Wildman.

Ayes 77; nays 19.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The importance of this legislation has already been described to the House. Because of that, I would ask unanimous consent to proceed.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent to proceed.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, is there not a notice of motion before you to set aside the orders of the day?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The members opposite are supposed to do that.

Mr. Harris: Are we supposed to put it?

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Cousens moved, seconded by Mr. Harris, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the business of the House be set aside so that the House might debate a matter of urgent public importance, that being the acute situation facing the 9,000 handicapped persons stranded in their homes by the Wheel-Trans strike.

Mr. Speaker: The notice of motion was received in time and complies with standing order 34 regarding the notice requirements. It was received at 11:43 a.m. today. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes, as well as to representatives from other parties.

Mr. Speaker: I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes, as well as to representatives from other parties.

Mr. Cousens: This emergency has been going on now for some days, and notice was given this morning in the House leaders' meeting and, as you say, Mr. Speaker, was duly received in your office before noon. It indicates the great concern our party has for the needs of the handicapped and the disabled.

We are concerned because there has been no action taken by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to indicate that the concern is as great as it is. He has had no involvement in this. With no action forthcoming before our motion was tabled, we are pleased the motion has helped trigger at least some response in the emergency legislation that has since been tabled by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye).

At last, though it was hastily prepared, the Minister of Labour has tabled important legislation that can address the concerns of the handicapped and the disabled. To that extent, it makes this debate a very important consideration.

However, where have the Liberals been? Why are they reacting now, when the sensitivity of this issue required immediate action 11 days ago when the strike first began? Today, more than 14,000 disabled persons are cut off from their only reliable and efficient means of transportation with Wheel-Trans. While limited emergency assistance has been made available for those needing kidney dialysis, and while the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has set up an interim service for the approximately 5,000 under the ministry's vocational rehabilitation or disability payments programs, absolutely nothing is being done or is otherwise available for Metropolitan Toronto's disabled to help them get to work, to school or their other appointments. These things are also essential to them.

By extending assistance only to those under the purview of his ministry, the Minister of Community and Social Services has effectively penalized the approximately 9,000 disabled in Toronto who, until now, have been independent and self-sufficient. About 9,000 disabled persons are trapped in their homes with very limited alternative transportation services to call upon during this crisis. My office, as well as that of our leader the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), has been flooded with phone calls from disabled people describing their

frustrations. They have been calling upon our party to take action on their behalf.

The concerns are affecting many people, and as the strike continues into its 11th day, disabled students are kept from their classes, university students are missing exams, disabled workers are facing the trauma of potentially losing their jobs as their holiday time is gradually being used up. In his statement today, the Minister of Labour indicated that little hard evidence is available of disabled people losing their jobs as a direct result of the strike. May I say there is considerable hard evidence of the tragic circumstances being created for those people who are otherwise stranded in their homes.

Incidents such as these create enormous obstacles to the normalization of the disabled at a time when they are struggling to prove they are just as capable, reliable and independent as other employees. An incident such as the Wheel-Trans strike undermines this whole normalization process.

We welcome the fact that the Liberal government is taking immediate action and getting directly involved to bring an end to the Wheel-Trans strike. However, immediate action should have been taken 11 days ago when this strike first began.

5:10 p.m.

As critic for Community and Social Services, I am very concerned, along with our party, about seeking a resolution to this problem. Shortly after noon hour, before the House convened today, legislation was tabled. It is obvious that time is needed to consider that legislation, and I respect that the honourable members of the third party require time to look into it further to understand the implications and ramifications of the legislation. I hope we can soon come together in the House to review that legislation and pass it quickly to resolve this problem.

Mr. Rae: I want to speak in this debate to make very clear the views of my party with respect to the matters before us in the dispute between the drivers of the Wheel-Trans service and their employer.

For a period of a decade the New Democratic Party, together with the disabled and a great many other people, pushed the government of Ontario under a Tory administration to recognize finally that with respect to transportation the disabled had rights that were not being recognized, were not being dealt with and were not being met. I speak with some pride in my colleagues, going back many years, since the service that is provided is there because of the

commitment of the disabled and because of the commitment of people in our party and in other parties who recognized that discrimination existed. Discrimination continues to exist. We have always argued, and I want to say so as a matter of public record, that in our view the disabled have a right to integrated transportation, a right to a service that is second to none and of which all of us can be proud. That is not at issue in this discussion today.

At issue in the discussion today is the way in which this government has chosen to deal with this dispute between the drivers and their employer. It would be foolish for us to ignore that it was the previous administration which decided that rather than have an integrated service under the Toronto Transit Commission, and rather than have it done under the mode of public transportation, it would be done as a matter of policy in Ontario by means of a subcontract to a subcontracted employer. In our view, much of the dispute between the employees and their employer today exists because of the tremendous discrepancy between the conditions under which drivers are driving for All-Way in transporting the disabled and the handicapped and the conditions under which people are driving for the TTC.

I say to the Tory members who have been heckling quietly that I do not think it is widely known that the All-Way drivers do not have a private pension plan. The workers who are driving for All-Way do not have a private pension plan; that should be a matter of record. The government of Ontario is publicly subsidizing, as is Metro, a service that does not even provide its own employees with a pension plan. The government then turns around and says: "Instead of negotiating, we are going to send people back to work. That is the basis upon which it is going to be done."

I have known for some time of the nature of the discussions that have taken place between the parties and with the Ministry of Labour. The Minister of Labour and the Premier are here today. Both know perfectly well that the issue is extremely close in terms of its ability to be resolved. They know that the negotiating committee went back to the membership with a proposal that was defeated by a vote of 89 to 52. They know that the negotiating committee met on several occasions with the mediators involved, stressing that with some changes to the final proposal it felt a settlement was possible.

As the Premier is here, I want to say to him that the drivers have a right to believe they have been

treated in a fashion that was arbitrary and high-handed. They were given the impression that certain things were going to happen that have not happened at all with respect to a change being made in the offer. The government of Ontario was in a position to effect a settlement simply by indicating that it was prepared to pay the amount that would have allowed these workers to keep their wages in line with those of the TTC drivers. As the minister now knows, they are \$4 behind the TTC drivers. He will also know the issue could have been settled. Instead, the Premier decided, at 1:45 p.m. or thereabouts, to bring in legislation.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Rae: This is no way to conduct the business of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: We will not be railroaded or steamrollered in this way.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: First of all, let me indicate to honourable members that we on this side of the House have no objection to proceeding with this debate and to having a discussion about this very unfortunate situation which has resulted in the introduction of back-to-work legislation. The position of the government is that the debate should proceed for whatever time is remaining.

Because I know my colleagues the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the secretariat for disabled persons, that is, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) and the Minister of Community and Social Services would like to talk about the hardships and the difficulties faced by the handicapped, let me in my remarks briefly expand on the process we have undergone in the last while and, in doing so, speak to some of the issues raised by the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) and the leader of the third party.

The government waited until this time to move on this legislation to allow a process to go forward that we hoped would at the end of the day resolve happily and in a voluntary fashion the bargaining dispute between the parties. When the strike began 11 days ago, we felt there was an opportunity for the collective bargaining dispute to be resolved. I remind my friend the member for York Centre, who with his party apparently would have pulled the trigger on day 1, that we were able to get—

Mr. Cousens: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like the honourable minister to

withdraw that statement. There was no indication we said, "Pull the trigger on day 1."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I know he did not say those words; he simply said we should have moved 11 days ago. The member indicated the opposition would have moved 11 days ago. We felt the intensive and very effective mediation efforts by the Ministry of Labour officials should be allowed to proceed. I remind my friend and the members of the official opposition who would have moved so much more quickly that the two sides did reach a tentative agreement, which was agreed to unanimously by the union's negotiating committee. Regrettably, the membership of the trade union decided, as was its right, that it did not agree, and turned down the tentative agreement by a vote of 89 to 52, as the member for York South has pointed out.

We on this side made every effort to let the collective bargaining process work and in a sense it did work. We did get a tentative agreement. That is the difference between this party and the members of the official opposition.

I understand what my friend the member for York South (Mr. Rae) said in his remarks, but I must share with him our view that what divides the parties is not quite as simple as what he suggests. I would think he would want to acknowledge to the House that what divides the parties is about 63 cents an hour. That does not, in the total scheme of things, get into the millions of dollars but it is a very substantial difference, as I am sure my friend would acknowledge.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is about \$200,000 maximum.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I would have thought my friend would also have acknowledged in his remarks that there was a tentative agreement reached between the parties and the tentative agreement, which did have the position on the pension scheme that he pointed out, was not ratified. I suggest to my friend that we simply have a difference of opinion. We on this side do not believe a quick and speedy resolution in any way could have been reached on the 63 cents an hour.

As my friend knows, the government of Ontario is not the only player in this matter. Discussions would have to be ongoing with the chairman of Metro Toronto and with Metro council so the money could be provided to the firm to which this work is contracted. Otherwise, the contract the firm now has would not be in any way sufficient to pay for the cost of the

settlement, and that is if a settlement could be reached.

My friend suggests that by waving a magic wand we could have resolved the dispute in a matter of hours. That was not the judgement of the government. I think our judgement was the correct one, and very regretfully—I say this quite honestly—we decided to bring in the measures that we brought in today. I hope to hear the remainder of the debate.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York Centre has placed a motion to set aside the business of the House. I have listened carefully to the three members who have spoken. There seems to be reasonable agreement. However, I must put the question. Shall the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Gillies: I am glad that this debate will be proceeding this afternoon and that the members will have an opportunity to address some of the issues that surround the Wheel-Trans situation. I believe there are a number of issues we should be talking about in this debate.

The decision of the New Democratic Party not to grant unanimous consent to the further passage of the bill is an action of which I will not be unduly critical. I say to my friends to the left that while our caucus wrestled with the issues that surround this and came into the House with a decision to support the government bill, I share some of the points that have been raised by the leader of the third party concerning the way the government saw fit to proceed on this issue today. If the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) and the leader of the government feel they can come in here on any given day with some two or three minutes' notice, introduce a piece of legislation of this import and have the automatic support of the official opposition, they are quite wrong.

On a matter of principle, and out of concern for the more than 9,000 handicapped people who are being adversely affected by the duration of this strike, we will be supporting the legislation. But I suggest to the members of the government that they are too clever by half when they come out of a meeting of the House leaders of the three parties this morning, where there had been discussion of the fact that my friend the member for York Centre would be introducing a motion for an emergency debate this afternoon and realizing that they were caught with their pants down and that their neglect of this issue predicated action, and come into this House with absolutely no

notice and expect the members of this chamber, with no notice and no opportunity to review the contents of their bill, then to proceed to deal with it.

Mr. Gordon: Sheer arrogance.

Mr. Gillies: My friend the member for Sudbury is right. It is arrogance, and I suggest to my friends opposite that it is not the kind of procedure we will entertain on subsequent occasions during the duration of this session.

However, we did have an opportunity to review the legislation during the division-bell period prior to the first-reading vote. There is nothing particularly imaginative or new there. It is a very standard piece of legislation, which would see the appointment of a single arbitrator, who would then be empowered, within the parameters of the Labour Relations Act, to impose a settlement on this particular dispute.

My guess is that the arbitrator will be able to do the job and that the settlement will be fair and equitable. It is my hope that the employees of Wheel-Trans who will be affected by this decision will not be adversely affected. It is my hope that the outcome of the arbitration process will be very similar to what they might have been able to bargain for themselves.

There are a couple of points I would like to make on the substance of this matter, quite apart from the legislation that comes before us.

First, I think there is virtually unanimous agreement in this chamber that Wheel-Trans is an excellent service. I had an opportunity during the past week to talk on the phone to several of the drivers, and I am absolutely convinced of the dedication and the hard work that these men and women invest in the work they do.

It is not an easy job to work in the transportation of handicapped people or, in fact, to deal closely with handicapped people in any type of work. It is hard work; it is arduous; it takes a lot of care and a lot of compassion. The drivers to whom I have spoken raise with me their concern for their clients as often as they ever raise the issues of their settlement and what they want for themselves and their families. They raise with me the concern of what is happening to their clients during this dispute.

This, then, is what we members have to weigh: the legitimate rights of the employees of Wheel-Trans to attempt to bargain a settlement of their dispute with their employer against the ramifications of a lengthy dispute for some of the most helpless people in our society. In my experience, in my dealings with them and in my work with them as a member and as a private citizen, the

handicapped want to be able to do things for themselves; they want to be able to find their own way.

The days are long gone when handicapped people in Ontario wanted handouts, wanted to be dealt with in institutional settings and wanted things handed to them on a platter. The handicapped people whom I know and with whom I deal want an opportunity to make their own way and, if possible, they want to work. There is no group in our society that is faced with a higher level of unemployment than the handicapped. The unemployment rate among people confined to wheelchairs in this province is more than 80 per cent. One of the vital mechanisms that allows them to work and make their own way is the transportation network that is provided by Wheel-Trans.

Eleven days into this dispute, weighing the merits of this case, it will be the position of the official opposition to support the government bill on second and third readings.

Mention has been made of the vote already taken on the offer that was placed before the employees and rejected by a vote of 89 to 52. The tentative offer included an agreement by the province and Metropolitan Toronto to share \$377,000 in extra funding for the service. The workers, whose basic position is to seek parity with Toronto Transit Commission drivers, point out that this would leave them far behind.

The tentative agreement would also have given the workers a \$1-an-hour wage increase in the first year of a two-year agreement, a 37-cent increase in the second year and a \$500 signing bonus. With the passage of the legislation, which we will debate in this House tomorrow morning, it is my hope that the arbitrator will take this into account in arriving at his decision and that he will take into account the strongly held position of the employees that they should have parity with the TTC workers. There are other issues in terms of overtime, hours, lengths of shifts and so on, that have to be addressed.

We were very concerned on this side of the chamber to learn that at this point, only 11 days into the dispute, some of the handicapped clients of Wheel-Trans were losing their jobs as a result of their inability to be transported to and from their employment. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) said he expected employers to ensure that no physically handicapped employees lost their jobs because of the strike or their inability to get to work.

I know the minister well enough to know he would say that in good faith and sincerity. That

would be the hope of us all. Unfortunately, it has come to light to members of this party, and to other members, that some of the handicapped people are losing their jobs. I am sure you would agree, Mr. Speaker, that this situation is untenable. It is unconscionable that we would allow that to continue. Something had to be done to break the logjam and bring a solution to this dispute.

5:30 p.m.

I also appreciate that the Minister of Community and Social Services moved to provide emergency arrangements for more than 5,000 of the people who normally rely on Wheel-Trans for their transportation. Members on all sides of the House want to laud the minister for his efforts in this regard. However, we still are left with more than 9,000 handicapped people who are unable to get to their place of employment by any means we know and pursue something they hold very important: the ability to make their own way.

This situation has to be addressed. We are sensitive to the aspirations and rights of the workers. We also are sensitive to the aspirations and rights of the clients of this service. Conscious as we are of all the arguments that have been made thus far, as well as the concerns raised by the third party, tomorrow morning this party will come into the Legislative Assembly to vote an end to this dispute and have an arbitrator arrive at a settlement for the Wheel-Trans employees.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I rise to join in this debate. I was prepared to do so before this binding-arbitration, strikebreaking legislation was brought in earlier. I am delighted to be able to do it today in practice for tomorrow's speeches on the bill as we get to them.

I would like to make a number of points, the first being the history of Wheel-Trans and the problems of transportation for the disabled. This gives us a wonderful chance at this point to look at the limitations of that system.

I also want to talk about what the workers have already done to subsidize this system. There is a lot of talk around here about government subsidization, but the group that has been primarily subsidizing transportation for the disabled in Metropolitan Toronto from day one has been the workers. The disabled people themselves know that best. Although we are getting calls about hardship and the difficulties people are encountering in getting access to jobs and necessary appointments, especially those most severely disabled, I have not had one call from anybody who opposes the demands of the workers involved. They want those workers to be properly paid.

It strikes us on this side of the House as somewhat incongruous and very bizarre that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) talks about us being draconian and antidemocratic in wanting to get a timetable for the end of extra billing. We already have heard more than 150 briefs, there have been months of lobbying and the government has held its own public hearings, and the Premier calls us antidemocratic because we want a timetable for a commitment he made during the last election. Yet the Premier comes in here today, hands us this legislation after the start of question period, wants it rammed through today and calls that democracy and efficient and humane government. I find it absolutely outrageous.

Let us look at the history of Wheel-Trans. Years ago, when Wheel-Trans was owned by one private employer, the standards were atrocious. The workers had incredibly bad working conditions. There was a prediction of a death by one rider. As the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) reminded me earlier, that person became a victim on the predecessor to the present system and was killed in an accident.

Much has changed since the new Wheel-Trans was brought into place and since new equipment was leased to All-Way Transportation Corp. by the provincial and Metro governments. Much has changed since the Toronto Transit Commission has been bargaining for its workers.

Let us look at what those workers still are faced with. They earn \$4 an hour less than their colleagues on the regular transit lines, yet in my riding many of them go into a high-rise apartment building and help the disabled person downstairs and into the van. They give to that individual very personalized and humane assistance that is not expected of the normal transit driver in this city.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I wonder whether the honourable member will permit a question. Is that an additional duty for the driver, or is it part of his regular duties?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It depends on how one wants to define it. In a place like Ottawa it is absolutely additional, and they are not supposed to do it. In a place like Toronto it is now understood that it can be part of their duty or it can be seen to be additional. I am not sure of the latest discussion on that.

All I am saying is that this is an incredible group of dedicated individuals who have worked very hard at \$4 an hour less than their colleagues with no pension plan and no long-term disability benefits. They work 13-day shifts. They have no time off for lunch in their contract. They are

basically second-class colleagues of the TTC drivers, whom we all respect—even though we order them back to work on a relatively regular basis around here—for the first-class, I might even say world-class, transportation system that we have here in Metropolitan Toronto.

That group of individuals did not accept a contract that was brought back to them by their negotiators; that is true. But let us look at what they were willing to accept. A two-year proposal was put to them with only a 37-cent increase in the second year. As the Minister of Labour admitted, it is very likely they would have accepted and settled for a 67-cent increase on top of that in the second year.

What would that have cost this government? If the government had assumed the entire cost for that, without any sharing from Metro—and maybe there was a reluctance by Metro to share; I will not get into the politics of dumping on the municipal government in our transportation policies in Ontario at this point—even if Metro was not willing to share, \$200,000 is not an awful lot of money to come up with as a solution instead of ordering people back to work, taking their democratic rights from them.

How much money is the Minister of Community and Social Services spending to assist his 5,000 clients to get to their appointments? How much is that costing? We are willing to put that money out. I might even argue that the minister could do even more, if he chose to, and assist some of the others who are in danger of losing their jobs to get assistance in that way during the strike, especially since he has indicated to me in the past that he is anxious to do more for the working poor. Many of the disabled who are in that condition would fall into that category.

For that kind of money, for a strike on this kind of scale, this government is willing to bring in, at 2:15 p.m. today, this kind of draconian legislation and wants it all passed today.

If it is not passed today, what is going to be the effect on the clientele? One has to understand how Wheel-Trans works if one wants to understand what the impact is going to be.

If you want to go to your regular job by Wheel-Trans, then you set up a schedule and you are picked up on a regular basis. Those people have been disrupted because of the strike for the last little while. They will not be able to go back on the system tomorrow morning; that will not work. It is not possible for them to be back on the system on Friday morning. For every other kind of drive that those people want—and there are real limitations on what they are allowed to use it for;

let us remember that too—they have to book a week in advance. That is transportation equity for you.

It is not going to affect them any more if we talk this through and talk about some of the ramifications of a policy for transportation for the disabled today and tomorrow, or however long it takes us to debate this and maybe to get some changes that will bring more equity into transportation for the disabled than if we were to pass this today.

5:40 p.m.

Let us talk about this policy. I cannot remember specifically what the Liberal policy was on this in the past, but I do remember when we were arguing in the past from this side about the question of access. We have argued that the vast majority of the disabled should be given access to an integrated transportation system that we all use. In the Tory regime we had the new light rail transit system going to my area in Scarborough, for instance; a world-class, innovative, high-tech—all those things that were so wonderful in the throne speech—kind of development with no access for the handicapped.

Recently we have had several of the stations here in downtown repaired. Has that changed the access for the handicapped? No. They are not to have part of that system. They are to have their separate system which is basically inadequate in what it can provide.

Do members know that epileptics are not eligible for Wheel-Trans? Do members know that the frail elderly are not eligible for Wheel-Trans? People who have basic cardiac problems and cannot get up and down stairs are not eligible for Wheel-Trans.

We need an integrated system. If this kind of crisis can cause us to have a full debate on the change of policy by this government in this next budget—whether or not it is able to bring what it promised in the throne debate, which was employment equity for the disabled—then, by God, this is all very worth while and the disabled in this province and in Metro will be glad that we have taken the extra time to discuss it, rather than forcing these drivers back to work and shelving what is a very serious problem of the inadequacy of transportation for the disabled in Ontario today.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: There is an obvious urgency to deal with this issue. This is the first working day of this Legislature and we have introduced legislation today to deal with the Wheel-Trans labour dispute, yet we hear from the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) that

we have done absolutely nothing to help out and that this issue just fell from the sky.

He should realize that we have had a number of discussions with the members of the disabled community. This morning we held a meeting with the following representatives of the disabled community: representatives from the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, Persons United for Self-Help in Ontario, the Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-help Tactics, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Ontario March of Dimes and, of course, the person who was fairly responsible for organizing the demonstration yesterday at city hall, Beryl Potter.

We wanted to find out the difficulties, what the community wanted to do and in which way the community wanted us to act. The honourable member should realize that is obviously an important aspect of a democratic process. We want to find out the feelings of those who are affected by our policies.

As I said earlier, there is some urgency. There are instances of hardship that come to light, such as difficulties in getting to employment, which was in some degree already spoken about. There has been a threat of job loss to some people who are using the system. There has also been an inability to get to medical appointments and generally some people are not able to carry on their normal life activities. There is an urgency to come to grips with the situation and that is why this afternoon we wanted to pass this legislation.

The other aspect that I find of importance is the action that was taken by the Minister of Community and Social Services. The emergency support being provided by the Ministry of Community and Social Services at this specific time until the legislation is passed is attempting to meet the immediate needs of clients and to provide general information to the public through a telephone hotline. It is only an interim measure and is not intended to substitute for the Wheel-Trans service. Members will realize that this matter was acted upon fairly quickly by the minister and I am very happy this action has taken place.

The reason there is grave urgency is that the situation will be further aggravated early next week when family benefits allowance recipients, who actually constitute the majority of users of the system, will be faced with the problem of not being able to get transportation to cash their cheques or purchase needed supplies for the upcoming month. That is why it is obvious and

clear that almost immediate action is necessary. That is the kind of action this government has proposed. That is why, as the days go on, it is important that we come to grips with the situation.

I want to tell the members briefly what transpired at the meeting, because we firmly believe that process is important for democracy. A thorough discussion of the implications of the strike took place and various options for seeking a resolution were explored. The options that were talked about were important. The disabled community felt it did not wish to get involved in the dispute. It felt there was some unfairness propagated by one party, but it was important to take a stand on getting the service back. Its main concern has been to reinstitute the service. As the members realize, the reasons are clear and open. The disabled community is obviously very sensitive about being able to do daily chores, go to jobs, do the shopping, go to hospitals and sometimes even to maintain a life-support system.

It was obvious this government needed to act fairly quickly. Once the discussion had taken place with the disabled community, it was important to take some action. That is why, after consulting the disabled community, I am confident it will be supportive of the action proposed by my colleague the Minister of Labour. As minister responsible for disabled persons, I look forward to Wheel-Trans resuming as quickly as possible.

Mr. Cousens: I have listened to the member for Parkdale. I am pleased he has been having meetings, but part of the concern that has brought this debate to the House is that not only are the wrong people meeting, but the government is also meeting with the wrong people.

Let me go back. Perhaps the Premier should have got involved as the former Premier did in 1984 when the Toronto Transit Commission was facing a strike. He personally made persuasion effective in bringing about a resolution. He tried to do something. It is that kind of ingredient and that kind of person that have been missing in the meetings the member for Parkdale has been talking about. Further, the member talks about the different groups he supposedly met with, and I am sure he or someone did. Why were there not further meetings with the members of the union?

We are talking about a breakdown in process and a breakdown in responsibility when a junior minister does not even pass it on to the Minister of Community and Social Services who has a direct involvement in this. He has the financial

responsibility. I compliment the minister for at least looking at part of the problem, but the fact is that the senior people of this government have not been taking seriously the plight of the disabled and the handicapped during the days of this strike. They stand condemned because people are sitting in their homes unable to get out and do the things they are used to doing. I challenge this government to be more considerate of the needs of people.

5:50 p.m.

It starts at the top. It starts with the Premier himself having an involvement and a concern, knowing full well that his presence is going to have an impact. I am confident there would be no legislation before this House today if it were not for the fact that our party gave notice this morning that we would be bringing an emergency debate to this House on the Wheel-Trans issue. It would not have happened. Otherwise, we would not have received this special legislation at about two o'clock and we would not have the situation we are in now. We would not have had to be at that stage if the government had been doing the proper work it should have been doing before today. Fortunately, we are back here today and able to force some concrete action and some decisions to be made.

We are into a situation that is not fun at all. I have to be sensitive, as are all honourable members, to the needs of the handicapped as well as to the needs of those who are in negotiations. We respect that negotiating process, and I compliment very much the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) who spoke earlier on the support our party will give to the government's bill to end this strike and to get the trucks rolling and to get the people moving again. We are dealing with a crisis for people. That is what it is all about, individuals who are looking for an opportunity to get to work and to get out of their homes.

I know of one man who is confined to a wheelchair due to calcium deficiency which leaves the bones of his body extremely brittle. He says he has not been out of his apartment to buy food in those 11 days. I know of one disabled woman who has described her plight as similar to being in jail, because she is now cut off from friends, shopping and other excursions. I know of one government employee who finally found a job after six months and is now fearful of losing it. She is afraid her absence will reflect badly on her record.

There are many people out there today who are looking for relief and support. The problem is that the numbers are far greater than were being

addressed by the emergency service that was being provided through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Those people had no solution to their plight without the government at least now at last getting involved.

It is a very emotional issue; it is emotional to all people; it is emotional to those of us who are able to get around to know there are others who are suffering this way. We need this legislation passed, as difficult as it is. I am pleased and proud of our party for supporting the government in this minority situation; at least for supporting the government in expediting a solution to this problem when the accord has broken down. The problem is in the minds and hearts of those people who are not able to help themselves. We, through this body and this House, can do something about it.

We are talking about people who have been trying to demonstrate; they have been trying to get their word out; they have been trying to get to phones that are jammed because there are too many people calling and not enough phones to take their calls. We are talking about people who are anxious to fulfil themselves again. We are talking about a process of normalization, where we are saying to the people of our society, "We are all created equal and, regardless of your handicap, we want you to be part of this society."

For that reason, it is imperative that we look at Wheel-Trans at the same level of importance as we looked at the TTC in 1984. What is the difference? Some people think the difference is the smaller numbers, but that should not be the important thing. Handicapped people are suffering because they are caught in a transportation situation that is limiting their mobility.

The government stands judged by all for not having acted earlier, for not having found a solution earlier, for not involving the Premier earlier, for not sharing with the honourable members of the New Democratic Party and ourselves earlier what they were going to try to do. To come in at the last minute is really something that has not happened in a long time in this House.

We have moved to a stage where we can seek a resolution to this problem and I hope all members are able to push through the second and third readings of this bill tomorrow. We will have an opportunity tonight to read the words of it, to check out the thoughts, to make sure that it does respond to the situation we are in. We are doing that now. By virtue of that thinking process, it would be a good thing for all if we are able to complete that work tomorrow, to allow those

people to proceed to their work on time on Monday.

I hope the session we are about to have in the coming days will be far different from today. It is not enjoyable for anyone to have this kind of legislation before us or to have this kind of emergency debate. May we be on our way to a solution here and to seeing good thinking and good process during the remainder of this sitting.

Mr. Mackenzie: The issue before us is not one of whether an unfairness is being inflicted upon the users of the service for the handicapped, Wheel-Trans. The issue today is one of the justice of what we are doing. The fact that the Tories moved this way in the legislation in 1984 does not make today's bill any more right. If it is wrong today—and it is wrong today—it was just as wrong in 1984.

I have a real difficulty with this kind of legislation. It seems to me, as I said in the debate back in 1984, that every time we bring in this kind of legislation, every time we deny workers' basic rights, it seems to get a little bit easier.

What we are really dealing with is a group of workers who do one hell of a good job in looking after a constituency that has some real difficulties associated with it, workers who really like the job they are doing—I think you would have to like it in order to do it—and who are doing that job for \$4.05 an hour less than the regular transit drivers are getting in Toronto. They receive no pension payments whatsoever, and I wonder how they are supposed to take care of their families; they are working people like anybody else. They are not getting long-term disability benefits; they are not getting shift premiums; they are not paid overtime when they are brought in to work on off days. They are losing many of the benefits of ordinary workers, and they are doing this, I think, because they understand the importance and the nature of their job.

We are really playing a little game of blackmail here. We are really asking these workers to subsidize a vital service to people in this province. By forcing the drivers to do the subsidizing, we are taking the government and our municipalities off the hook in terms of the services that have to be there for people. What we are doing very effectively is underlining the fact that we are willing to provide a second-class service for the handicapped. I do not think that is right.

I have some difficulty with the effort of the Minister of Labour to remind us that the negotiating committee had actually recommended acceptance of the agreement that had been

worked out. My experience with both of the old parties in this House is that we usually get told how the labour bosses are running things. What is wrong when, all of a sudden, a proposition is put to the workers, who know they have been getting the short end of the stick for a number of years, and they say: "No, we are not going to take it any longer. There is no reason we should not have decent wages, decent pensions and decent disability benefits. We want those kinds of things included in the contract and we are not going to settle for what you have offered us." A majority in a democratic procedure vote against accepting it, and should we, somehow or other, give less credibility to that?

The Minister of Labour should be happy that this kind of democracy at the rank and file level is alive and well in the trade union movement. We should also understand, and I think most of the handicapped workers and users of the service understand—there is a fair amount of evidence that they do—that while they have a difficult situation and while they want to see a settlement, they do not want to see that settlement on the basis of the subsidy being carried by the drivers, the people who are giving them the service.

I also find it very difficult to understand how, in the final days of negotiations, we can get down to a difference of probably \$100,000 to \$200,000 and let this kind of situation exist. When are we going to start deciding to provide the services for

people on the basis of decent wages and decent conditions and not ask the workers themselves to do the subsidizing? It is just wrong.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to indicate the business of the House for the remainder of this week and next.

Tomorrow we will do second reading, committee of the whole House, if required, and third reading, if possible, of Bill 2, the Wheel-Trans Labour Disputes Settlement Act.

Monday, April 28, we will hear the mover and the seconder of the speech from the throne, followed by resolutions presented to the House that we hope will lead to the implementation of new rules, and a motion to strike committees.

Tuesday, April 29, we will hear the official opposition's response to the throne speech.

Wednesday, April 30, if the new rules are accepted, we will hear the third party's response to the throne speech, followed by private members' debate on the throne speech.

Thursday, May 1, in the afternoon we will have the throne speech debate. If the new rules are accepted, we will discuss the possibility of having an additional two hours in the morning for throne speech debate.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Friday, April 25, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, April 25, 1986

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McLean: On a point of privilege: I would like the House to recognize the prowess of the Orillia Travelways Hockey Team. After defeating Brockville, they are once again the winners of the central Canada trophy, emblematic of hockey supremacy from Thunder Bay to Moncton, New Brunswick. They play the first game of the Centennial Cup series on Sunday afternoon in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. They were the Centennial Cup champions last season. I congratulate the team and wish them success for another Centennial Cup.

Mr. Harris: On a point of privilege: Yesterday in the Legislature the first minister of the province and of this Legislature said, and I quote from Hansard, "The critic at large would be intellectually dishonest."

My party and I have grave reservations about the language of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on the first formal day back in the Legislature, albeit a different day for a number of reasons. His language demeans not only a member of this House, a specific member in this case, but also all members of this House. The first minister might want to reflect on setting the tone for this session with those kinds of remarks. You, Mr. Speaker, may want to reflect on that and relay it to him.

Mr. Speaker: First of all, that is not a point of privilege; it may be a point of order. Usually such points are brought up immediately. The Premier is not in his seat, but I am sure this will be drawn to his attention.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Andrewes: My question is to the Attorney General in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). It is a question that concerns a vitally important issue, the negotiations that are currently going on between the government and the Ontario Medical Association. Has the government placed any time limits

during which the OMA is required to respond to the government's 10-point proposal?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The Minister of Health is not in the House today. I would like to take that question as notice and refer it to him upon his return.

Mr. McClellan: He does not go to the meetings. You are the only one who goes.

Mr. Andrewes: On a point of order with respect to that response: It is well known that the Attorney General is conducting these negotiations. He is the focal point of these negotiations. In the public interest, it is only appropriate for the Attorney General to respond.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is hardly a point of order. Is that a supplementary question?

Mr. Andrewes: It is a point of order. I will try another one.

Mr. Speaker: I do not consider that a point of order. Will the member place a supplementary?

Mr. Andrewes: As the Attorney General has declined to answer a question that is very relevant to his undertakings at present—his undertakings at the instruction of the Premier—I will pose that question to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), if I may, sir.

Mr. Speaker: The usual custom in this House is that the supplementary question flows out of the response to the original question.

Miss Stephenson: What response?

Mr. Gillies: The Premier is here; he probably could respond to the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The supplementary can be placed to the minister to whom the question was placed originally. If the minister wishes to ask the Premier to reply, that is up to him.

Mr. Andrewes: I will offer the Attorney General an opportunity to redirect the question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your supplementary?

Mr. Andrewes: No, it is not my supplementary; it is my point of order.

Mr. Speaker: With respect, that is not a point of order. Are you asking the Attorney General to redirect the question?

Mr. Andrewes: I now have given the Attorney General that opportunity on two occasions. Apparently he is declining to enlighten the House on a subject that currently is very near and dear to him.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order: We are dealing with one of the most important issues concerning the people of Ontario. This House started at 10 o'clock, at which time the Premier was not in the House. We had here one minister who was in the forefront of the negotiations.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is no response from the Attorney General? Final supplementary.

Mr. Andrewes: Given that I have not received an answer to my question and the Attorney General apparently is declining to involve himself publicly in these negotiations, although obviously he is very involved, and if the government has not placed any time constraints on these negotiations—and by the nonanswer it would appear that it has not—my final supplementary is: Would it not be in the best interests of this House and of the government's negotiations with the OMA to stand down Bill 94, which has been described by the Premier as being draconian legislation, and create an environment of effective negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The premise of the question is that the answer I gave, in which I referred the question to the Minister of Health, leads to certain assumptions. The honourable member knows perfectly well there is no justification in drawing any assumptions from the fact that a question is to be referred to a minister. In this case the Minister of Health is in charge of the negotiations, and he will be back in his place next day. The person in charge of the negotiations should answer the questions.

Mr. Harris: As long as the record shows that neither the Attorney General nor the Premier wishes to comment and that they have no answer to either one of these questions. Neither of those two is involved.

10:10 a.m.

ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURALISM AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Shymko: My question is of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. In a leaked ministry document entitled *Multiculturalism: How is the Liberal Government Different!* bearing the name of the minister and dated February 6, 1986—

Mr. Foulds: Which one?

Mr. Shymko: The Minister of Citizenship and Culture.

Mr. Foulds: Down, Tony, down.

Mr. Shymko: My apologies for the confusion, for which I am not responsible.

In a subtitle, "Program for Action," the minister proposes "to eliminate the existing Ontario Advisory Committee on Multiculturalism and Citizenship"—it is interesting that after eight months with her portfolio, she still does not know it is a council, not a committee—"which has been ineffective for about three years...."

Why has the minister singled out the three years when it was chaired for the first time by a woman, a prominent leader of Ontario's black community and a respected civil servant, namely, Dr. Mavis Burke, as the only ineffective years? Has the minister apologized for this offensive and patronizing statement to Dr. Burke and the 60 men and women who have so diligently served?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: The document to which the honourable member refers is in fact a discussion paper at the staff level. I have seen the paper. I think it is my responsibility as a minister to allow people to think and to be able to glean ideas from several items.

The discussion paper is in no way a policy paper, as the member is aware. The Minister without Portfolio, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), and I are both engaging and are fully aware of the sensitivities of the multicultural community. This government is also aware of the sensitivities. I do not believe I need to remind the member, although maybe the member for York West (Mr. Leluk) has not informed him of the estimates data, that the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and our interministerial committees are very sensitive on the whole issue of multiculturalism.

I am not going to discuss the content of that paper, which was transferred to the member in a brown paper envelope. If he wishes to talk to me about any issue relating to the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship, he is more than welcome to do it.

I met as recently as two days ago with Mr. Frolick. I am in constant contact. I do not intend to apologize to Dr. Burke, because I made no insinuation to that lady.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: If the member wants to ask a supplementary, I will be glad to discuss it.

Mr. Shymko: I certainly do have a supplementary. I think the minister should discuss with the Premier what is understood as responsibility for documents that bear her name.

I would like a clear answer: Is the minister going to eliminate the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship? Is she going to apologize for singling out three years for some reason? I would like to know whose advice she is taking: the auxiliary minister's, the people's or the advisory council's?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I seek advice from a number of bodies. Because of the member's experience as a parliamentarian, he will surely understand the difference between discussion papers, policy papers and a number of valid ways in which this or any other government can seek advice on the direction we are going.

My colleague the member for Parkdale and I are in constant discussion over many issues. The Premier does not have to take responsibility for the fact that a discussion paper bears my name. I have told the member already that that discussion paper is one of several. He surely does not think that, as a minister, I am going to be without meaningful input from members of my staff, members of my ministry and members of the Legislature, including himself.

I have made no allegations for which I have to apologize in the manner the member is considering. I am in constant contact with Mr. Frolick. We have in a good working relationship. If the member has any suggestions to give me, he may go ahead and do so.

Mr. Shymko: I have never seen a more insulting, degrading and demeaning document as is printed here. It is presented by a top adviser in the minister's ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Shymko: Why circulate not only in her ministry but apparently also in the Office of the Premier, where the first statement of the origin of this document was substantiated, an insulting document that sets back by 25 years the policy of multiculturalism, describes ethnics as being interested only in song, dance and food, and calls the poor of this province racist and bigoted?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I remind the member that I am not responsible for what he thinks, from all his experiences, is degrading information. I assure him that, as a minister, I have the right to ask my ministry to give me information that will provide the basis for more meaningful programs

in the area of multiculturalism. His definition of what he has read that is degrading in his experience is not anything I will start making value judgements on. He may rest assured that this ministry and this government are sensitive to multicultural concerns. If the member has anything he wants to talk to me about, he may do so.

LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a question for the Premier. There are two prominent labour disputes in Ontario at the moment; one is with the Ontario Medical Association, and the other has the Wheel-Trans drivers as protagonists. Why is it that for 1,700 doctors who have had a 47 per cent increase since 1982, the Premier is willing to offer \$53 million, about \$30,000 each extra above the Ontario health insurance plan rates, whereas for 185 disabled transit workers he is not willing to offer an extra \$220,000, about 63 cents an hour in the second year of a contract—not even money for this year—to stop what has happened? These people earn \$4.05 an hour less than regular Toronto Transit Commission drivers.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Why did the Premier not intervene more strongly for these workers as he did for the doctors? Are their democratic rights not worth the effort?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The assumptions in the honourable member's question are faulty. He suggests a specific offer of a certain amount of money has been put on the table; he is quite wrong in that respect. The situations are not similar at all. The doctors are currently independent professionals and have a different relationship with the government with respect to payment. Wheel-Trans is a private company. We are not legislating a specific settlement to that. It is in the hands of an arbitrator and will be, presumably, if the legislation is passed. I do not see the similarity that the member attempted to draw in the two situations.

Mr. Mackenzie: The Premier says it would be draconian legislation to speed up an end to the doctors' extra-billing ripoff. Does the Premier not recognize the double standard implied in this position? For doctors, it is draconian to end what has already been months and months of hearings but for the Wheel-Trans drivers, who are underpaid and underbenefited, it is quite all right to try to jam it through in an hour. Does he not recognize the double standard he is imposing on the workers in this province?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect, I do not agree with my friend's analysis of the situation. This government came reluctantly to the conclusion that the discussions with respect to Wheel-Trans were not going anywhere and we were going to have to deal with this situation. In our judgement, if there had been any hope of a quick settlement, we would have let the process go.

The honourable member will be aware that in the Wheel-Trans situation, an agreement was reached and the membership turned it down. How long can these things go on? Government has to act in these matters. I do not see the similarity between the two. I am not sure I can persuade him, but that is the position the government has taken.

Mr. Cousens: It was a double-barrelled question, and the other half of the question had to do with the Wheel-Trans strike. To what extent will the government underwrite the costs of the arbitration?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: One could argue that we could solve every strike in this province by throwing more money here and there. Everybody wants more money. I noticed a report yesterday that recommends that members of the provincial parliament are underpaid and should get 16 or 20 per cent more. I am not sure what the view of the members of this House would be on that matter.

We do not have unlimited fiscal capacity to solve all of these problems. There were some negotiations with the government with respect to Wheel-Trans. We tried to be conciliatory and to move in some direction. We are always looking, if we can, for a negotiated, reasonable settlement. However, sometimes these things do not happen and the government has to provide the leadership. We are doing that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The question that surely is begged in all this is about the Premier's commitment to public transit for the disabled in this province. We do not have an integrated system. He has not said whether he wants to move towards that. The past government did not choose to do so.

We have a second-class service at this point because people have to book for it and cannot use it for all the things that we unhandicapped people do. Does the Premier not think the Wheel-Trans drivers, who put in extra work and extra effort, should be paid at least what the the Toronto Transit Commission drivers, who are driving the rest of us around, are paid in Metropolitan

Toronto? Should he not have done more to make sure they got that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend is making the parity argument: They should have parity with this group or some other group, or why should they not have parity with some other group somewhere that is more highly paid? I have never heard anybody argue parity with someone who is lower than he is. They always find a group somewhere and say, "We should have parity with that group." I could argue that an honourable member such as himself, who is constructive, should have parity with his federal counterparts in Ottawa because he works equally hard and makes an equal contribution.

I want the member to know something, though. This government has rejected parity as an operating principle in any of these discussions. In any negotiation, I can find someone who makes more and someone who will say he deserves more. They are different situations. The qualifications are different between the two sets of drivers. I am not in a position to sit there and say, "This one equates to this one or that one" or anything else, and I do not think anyone else is.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Premier. He is quoted in the papers as having said after yesterday's question period that he would not promise that the extra billing ban would be in place before the fall of this year. Why is he considering that an extra \$25 million in extra billing be allowed in Ontario after the bill has been discussed and debated thoroughly, in the government's district health council forums, in second reading in this House and with more than 150 briefs in the standing committee on social development?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member asked this question yesterday and I welcome it again. I will give the same response. As long as we in the government are persuaded that the discussions that are going on with the medical community are in good faith and that progress is being made, we are going to take that approach.

I have said to the member and I said to the people who asked me yesterday that I expect a resolution of this matter this spring. If the member is asking me to do it next week, I cannot give him that date; I cannot say it is going to be accomplished by May 17 or by any other date. But we do believe on this side that progress is being made, and we expect, as I said, a resolution as quickly as possible. I am not going to let it drag, but I cannot tell the member specifically the day it is going to be passed in this House.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is very clear from the comments made by the Premier that the employees of Wheel-Trans and the patients of this province who are extra billed are second class to the doctors in Ontario.

Dr. Myers made it very clear when he was in front of the social development committee and in the press several times since then that the issue is the withdrawal of Bill 94 and that the doctors are not prepared to debate or negotiate a ban on extra billing with the government of Ontario unless Bill 94 is withdrawn. They are considering some task force that might report two years down the road.

What is the Premier negotiating? Why can we not ban extra billing now in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Again, this is a repetitive question. We are going to ban extra billing and we are not going to withdraw Bill 94. The member knows where we stand. There are a number of ways to accomplish the purposes we have in mind. I assume that my honourable friend believes in negotiating where possible; it is certainly an historic position of his party. There are a number of things we have in common with the medical profession and we are searching for those, just as when we work in this House we search for the things we have in common with our colleagues, not for the things that divide us. That is what makes the system go forward.

Mr. Andrewes: I would like to try once again with the question which I posed earlier to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and which he declined to answer: Has the government placed any time limits in which the Ontario Medical Association is required to respond to the Attorney General's proposal?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: No, and it is not the Attorney General's proposal.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The Premier has described our desire to ban extra billing as quickly as possible in this spring session as arbitrary and dictatorial. We have debated this bill since the middle of December in the Legislature and in committee. We have debated it in the province for 16 years. How can it be considered arbitrary, if we are to end extra billing when, on the other hand, would he not agree that his action on the Wheel-Trans strike is arbitrary, with five minutes' notice to the union?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me tell my honourable friend the essential difference. With respect to the discussions with the doctors and the OMA, we believe there is a chance to solve the situation and, optimists that we are, we are pursuing it. On

the basis of the information presented to us, we did not believe there was any chance or a reasonable likelihood of a negotiated settlement in the Wheel-Trans situation and we took action. That is the difference.

Mr. Gillies: My question is also to the Premier. As his minister was unable to effect a negotiated settlement in the case of the Wheel-Trans drivers, he introduced the legislation which we will be debating today. Due to the government's mishandling of the dispute with the OMA, there is a possible, threatened withdrawal of service by the doctors in this province. If that occurs, would he similarly be willing to introduce legislation that would prohibit the withdrawal of physicians' services?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member will agree I get threatened with everything almost every day, including in this House. I do not respond to hypothetical questions.

Mr. Wildman: I suggest to the Premier that this is a question of sufficient importance that he should consider it. For very good reason and in the interests of 14,000 handicapped people, he has introduced legislation to protect the health, safety and interests of those people. Is he saying he would not be similarly prepared to protect the health of nine million people if the doctors of this province withdraw their services?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the honourable member opposite is advising me to bring a law into this House to ban job action or to turn the doctors into civil servants and throw them in jail, I will take it under advisement. That is not the plan of the government at this time.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Premier. It is obvious from yesterday's answers he does not understand the gravity of the economic crisis facing Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and the Algoma district generally as a result of the major down-sizing announced by Algoma Steel last week.

Has the Premier had time to reconsider his unfortunate comment of yesterday, to the effect that laid-off workers are "unfortunate byproducts" of the economic transformation, and to direct his committee of deputy ministers to arrange to meet with representatives of the workers affected when it is in the Sault and Wawa next week?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If I used words that offended, I apologize; that was not my intention. I think we understand the depth of that human

tragedy. It is of great concern to us and, as my honourable friend knows, this is not the first time this province has gone through this situation and I cannot guarantee it will be the last. There are major transformations going on in the so-called single-industry towns or resource-based communities. There is a lot of work being done. As the member knows, the Rosehart committee and others have been looking at this situation and we expect a report shortly. His suggestion is a very constructive one and, absolutely, it is part of our responsibility to work with any laid-off workers in readjusting their lives. That will be part of the committee's responsibility.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The Premier must have some level of concern about the impact of Algoma's actions on Sault Ste. Marie in this specific case. More generally, there must be some concern about that sprawling conglomerate Canadian Pacific and the action its subsidiary, Algoma Steel, is taking on Sault Ste. Marie at the same time as its other subsidiary, Great Lakes Forest Products, is shutting down a waferboard plant in Thunder Bay.

What is the Premier going to do about the growing level of corporate concentration in Ontario? Can he ensure that there is some level of corporate accountability for these actions to the employees and to the communities that are so devastated by such actions?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member raises a very profound question. Is he talking with respect to the corporate concentration in this country and the consolidation of wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people, the great buyouts that are going on now, the use of the limited and finite resources we have as a country being to acquire other companies, and the big fish swallowing even bigger fish? If he is talking about that general context, that is something that concerns me. I do not know what the answer is. Some in the federal government are concerned about it, looking at it from a competitive point of view. It is something we have canvassed in this government. What can we do about the corporate-concentration question? Frankly, there is no simple or easy answer. It is in the hands of the federal government, but it is a trend that I personally do not like to see going on.

Mr. Brandt: In the light of the layoffs in Sault Ste. Marie, Sarnia and other communities, would the Premier consider making the retraining programs more flexible than they are at present? Apparently, the way the program works at this point is that if a worker has a particular

trade, even though there are no job prospects in that trade, the ministries refuse to allow him to be retrained for another occupation. Would the Premier look at that to see whether he can make that program more flexible in some way, to respond to the jobs that might be available rather than to jobs that are no longer available and have, in fact, disappeared?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was not aware of that situation. The honourable member makes a very constructive suggestion. I will ask the minister to take those comments under advisement.

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil). Yesterday, the minister announced a program called the Ontario investment network. The program, ostensibly, is to provide startup funds for entrepreneurs, as I understand it. Can the minister explain how this new program will work in conjunction with the help program that is currently run by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The part the ministry will play will be to refer business people to the service and assist them to develop business plans, develop and disseminate informational material on how to structure investments and provide startup funding to assist the Ontario Chamber of Commerce in promotional activities. The help fund will provide certain short-term funding and this program will be a supplement to it. We figure it will likely cover in the range of \$50,000 to \$500,000, while the help program is usually designated to help with a figure of less than \$50,000.

Mr. Brandt: Could the minister indicate what changes will be brought about in the vast array of programs that are now before his ministry and ostensibly assisting small business? There is the Ontario investment network, the small business development corporation, the Ontario Development Corp. and a number of programs that, in my view, as a result of the proliferation of programs, will result in nothing more than confusing the small businessman who does not have the bureaucracy that the minister has to understand the programs. Will the minister attempt to refine these programs and make them somewhat easier to understand for those who are actually generating the capital and the entrepreneurship in our economy?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The suggestion the member makes is a good one. Since we came into government, we have been reviewing all the

different plans and we hope to do exactly what the member has said.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: The Minister of Labour is aware of the continuing hardships imposed on the many women involved in the service industry; the cleaners employed by various companies to perform the vital tasks of keeping our society clean and sanitary. The minister is also aware of the ongoing insecurity and fear of unemployment that adds to the generally low wages these women suffer. The growing coalition for cleaners' rights, with the active leadership of some Portuguese women who have decided they do not have to be second-class citizens in this province, has asked in writing for some assistance from the minister and for some of the studies around this issue. As of this morning, they tell me he has not responded. May I ask the minister why?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I can look to see whether a response is ready for my signature. It may well be. I have not had an opportunity to review my correspondence this week. I will be doing that this weekend. We are willing to examine this issue in some depth. It is a fairly complex issue with important implications. We are at the preliminary stages of taking a look at it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Situations similar to the First Canadian Place dispute could develop in the very near future in a number of cities, including Mississauga and Ottawa. The 250 cleaners at First Canadian Place have no protection should Olympia and York decide to terminate their present contract. When is the minister prepared to enlarge the successor rights in the Labour Relations Act to give these workers some hope that the genuine efforts they make to better themselves and their condition cannot be thrown out the window arbitrarily?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I do not have much to add to my first answer. We were able to solve the problem at First Canadian Place. With the help of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) we were able to effect a solution in that situation. We do not want to continue to make policy formulation in an ad hoc way. We will be taking a look at what can be done and what appears to be appropriate. We have begun to do that, but we have not yet completed the task.

Mr. Gillies: On behalf of the official opposition, I have already indicated our support for the extension of successor rights for the employees of these cleaning contractors. Will the minister speedily bring legislative changes into the

House? With the agreement of the two opposition parties, we could pass them very quickly.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: It is interesting that the Conservative opposition apparently has a new policy here too. We are examining this matter and many others that have been left over from years gone by. We are looking at the issue. I cannot give the honourable member any timetable for any possible legislative changes.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Is the government prepared to stand by and allow 11,000 rental units to disappear off the market while thousands of people in Metro look for affordable rental housing?

Hon. Mr. Curling: My government is committed to seeing that those affordable rental units are not lost through conversion or for any other reason. I do not in any way intend to stand by and see them lost.

Mr. Gordon: With regard to the legislation the minister is going to bring in on the conversion of rental units to condominiums, is it his intention to have it apply across the province or will it apply specifically to the 11,000 units in Toronto about which we are so concerned?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I remind the honourable member that whatever policy we bring in it will not be done in an ad hoc way to patch it up in Toronto or Sudbury. It will be a provincial policy, sensitive to the areas being addressed. Our consultation is done in a manner that takes everything into consideration. The policy will be a provincial policy.

GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Minister of Labour about the potential closure of Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant in Thunder Bay. When will the ministry and the government take steps so that giant investment corporations such as Canadian Pacific do not victimize the workers in Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay? Specifically, what steps will the minister take to ensure that the company does not close that plant until it shares the full extent of its feasibility studies and financial information with the union and the community involved?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am not sure whether what my friend is asking is a question on Great Lakes or plant justification; therefore, I will touch on both.

In a preliminary way, we have begun a very wide-ranging look at the issue of plant justification as a whole. With respect to Great Lakes Forest Products, as the member knows, because he was involved, we had the opportunity to meet with the union about a week and a half ago. As a result of that meeting, we had the senior officials of the company in my office early last Tuesday. As a result of that meeting, Bob Joyce, a special adviser on plant closures, will be meeting with the parties, both this Saturday and Sunday, in a last-ditch effort to avoid a very unfortunate situation that would see a number of people laid off.

I might share with the honourable member and the House—and I have shared this before with both management and labour—my concern that when there are situations where this kind of layoff or closure could be salvaged, all too often the Ministry of Labour only gets involved at the very last instance. That is part of the study we are going to be taking a look at, because we are very unhappy to be trying to resolve a situation at the 11th hour.

Mr. Foulds: Why do Canadian Pacific and Great Lakes Forest Products seem so determined to close this waferboard plant when studies indicate it has a market for the next 10 years and this week the chief executive officer of the company was quoted on the radio in Thunder Bay as saying the company had enough capital to possibly buy the Kimberly-Clark plant in Terrace Bay, which is a much bigger operation? Will the minister take steps to put a moratorium on the closure of the waferboard plant in Thunder Bay for one year until the financial situation is sorted out?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The company does not deny it has a large number of orders it could fill and that it was working at full production; however, the company also says quite flatly it has been in a sea of red ink in the 11 years of that plant.

Mr. Foulds: It is overcharging against the operational costs of its major mill.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Just hold on for a second. That is why Mr. Joyce has become involved. One of the things we have asked him to do is to review very carefully the company's submissions in this regard. When the discussions between the company and the union carry forward this weekend, with Mr. Joyce's involvement, we hope to have those discussions at a knowledgeable level where both parties will accept the truth of what is on the table, and whether the

company's losses are exactly at the levels it maintains they are. It does not deny it has orders, but it says losses have been constant and ongoing and there is no opportunity in the near future to break even.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. McFadden: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Will the minister outline for the House what the government means when it suggests in the speech from the throne that "measures" will be introduced, "directed towards institutional accountability," in relation to our post-secondary education institutions?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We are having another session of defining words. The member knows what the institutions are. I think he understands the concept of accountability. Collectively in their organizations, the institutions themselves speak now and for the future in terms of something we generally call "planned capacities and roles." The government provides a good deal of the funding so that those planned capacities and roles can be consistent one with the other and collectively for the province. The accountability process involved in that procedure is simply saying: "We are providing the revenues for you to carry out your mandate. We want to ensure ourselves, as the paymaster in that regard, that the view we have of the future is effected."

Mr. McFadden: From what the minister has just said with regard to the province being a paymaster for the Ontario universities and from that line in the speech from the throne, it seems to me this policy promises to be a fundamental attack on the self-governance and autonomy of our universities.

Why does the minister not trust Ontario's universities to achieve the standard of excellence in the future that they have achieved in the past within this province?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member misunderstood my first response and suggested the government now is somehow going to impede the progress of institutions, universities and colleges to meet their clear mandate. There is no suggestion that we are going to assert that role. The suggestion comes from the institutions themselves. "In a world where funding is more critical, we, as 15 institutions," the universities say, "must start to get together so that we can collectively fulfil the mandate," which, for the past 10 years, the government of the party of which the member for Eglinton is a member

seriously underfunded and hampered in the work that was supposed to have been done.

Mr. McFadden: You never answered that one.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Allen: The minister persists in his discussion of university problems in using the language of a past regime. Will he please tell us precisely in which ways the university system is not now accountable? Is there information he cannot get from them on request under the legislative acts which provide for their existence, or are the boards themselves somehow irresponsible? Is he telling us he is going back to the proposals of Bill 42, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Amendment Act of 1983, and the attempt to wield the big stick on our universities in this province?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: First, there is no suggestion that we are going back to the bill to which the member referred. Second, the member is correct that there is a system of accountability. However, the member has not observed that in the direction of the speech from the throne there is a lot more to be done.

We talk about centres of excellence and we are serious about them. We talk about enhancing the potential of our institutions and we are serious about that. As we do so, we provide to those institutions revenue from the people of Ontario and we have an obligation to account for those funds and ensure that they are spent well and effectively, and that is what it is all about.

LANDFILL SITE

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Last December, I asked the minister to intervene in a hearing that was taking place into the expansion of a dump site on the Tricil site near Sarnia. The minister replied with assurances that the ultimate decision on this expansion would ensure, to use his words, "the very stringent controls she and I seek will be in place."

He now has received an approval for the expansion of this site from the joint hearings board, an approval that provides for no environmental safeguards. How is the minister going to fulfil his commitment to this House that the site, when used, will have a liner, will have a leachate system and will be as environmentally safe as it possibly can be?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am pleased to note that the member reads Hansard very carefully and

remembers what ministers say. That is most appropriate and, indeed, I did say that.

Mr. Wildman: He should too.

Mr. Davis: Now he is going to back off.

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No. The member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) indicates a backoff. He knows that may have been the policy for years in the past; it is not the policy of this government. That is a very good question from the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier).

It is my intention to ensure that the site is environmentally sound. We have the report from the joint hearings board. It did not make all of the recommendations that some of the environmental groups and citizens in the area wanted. It is my understanding that it has communicated to me by letter a request that cabinet review this. It is my understanding that cabinet has the ability to put in place the mechanisms necessary to ensure that the final site that is extended is environmentally sound.

Mrs. Grier: Would the minister not agree that any approval that was given to Tricil, allowing unknown quantities of untreated waste into an unprotected site owned by a company that is at present facing four charges under existing environmental protection legislation, would hardly be consistent with the proud boast in the throne speech that Ontario will continue to be a world leader in environmental protection?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is interesting that the member has noted that the Ministry of the Environment continues to prosecute anyone it feels is in violation of the laws of the province. She has suitably noted that charges have been laid against that company, and charges will be laid against any company, municipality or government agency that violates the environmental laws of this province.

The second part of the question asked whether we are prepared to indicate clearly that we are going to be leaders in this field. The member notes that, because this is the only site in Ontario to accept certain kinds of hazardous waste, we should be extra careful of this site. When we consider the ultimate conditions to be placed on the site, I will certainly take into consideration, and I am sure cabinet will also, that it does receive hazardous wastes and that we should be leaders in this field.

Mr. Brandt: The member has asked a number of questions about the Tricil site. Are the word "unprotected" and the term "unknown quantities of waste" applicable to this site? The ministry

surely knows, through its licensing efforts for that site, what goes into it, in what amounts and how it is to be treated. If additional protection is required, the minister has the mechanisms, as he has stated, to carry out those activities. Could the minister comment on the words used by the member about unprotected and unknown quantities?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am not prepared to referee between the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) and the member for Lakeshore on their interpretations, one being that the site is acceptable because of the conditions that are there and the other that it is not.

Mr. Brandt: I did not say that. Why waffle? Why does the minister not answer the question directly?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am attempting to answer the question very clearly for the member.

Mr. Brandt: Does the minister know what is going into the site?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Our ministry naturally watches very carefully any materials that go into this site. We do that under the rules and regulations that are in place. The member for Sarnia would also want to ensure, as all of us in this House would want to be certain, that the final conditions we place on this site, regardless of the fact that we know what goes in there and we have conditions in place now, would be such that the people in the adjacent area could feel they would not be threatened environmentally.

SPRAY PROGRAM

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Get a good shot of my ploughing match crest, Mr. Cameraman. It starts September 16.

Anyway, back to the minister, who is well aware that in three weeks it will be chow time for the gypsy moth in eastern Ontario. The minister is going to subsidize aerial spraying but he refuses to subsidize ground spraying. Would he explain to the House why?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The spray program we are taking on is going to cost the taxpayers a considerable sum of money, some three times as much as was undertaken last year. This government has been most responsible in doing that. We are stretching all the money we have in a way that is going to do the best job.

We have undertaken to do all the aerial spraying. The ground spraying should be undertaken privately because we have some limita-

tions. When we are spraying in the air, we have to have large enough tracts to be practical. We feel that on some smaller areas it is not unreasonable for the average person to be able to spray under those conditions.

Mr. Pollock: There are cultured tree plantations that are a fair size, and people went to quite an expense in planting those trees. Since aerial spraying is subsidized, why should these people not be subsidized? The trees were planted from the ground; why can they not be sprayed from the ground? Why should this spraying not be subsidized?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: There is a great deal of money being put into private spraying. In this instance it is considerably more than before. That does not mean we are not going to expand the program or do what has to be done as we study the proliferation of the gypsy moth in eastern Ontario.

The former government did no spraying in 1984. It had a very small program the last time around, in comparison to ours, and we have expanded it three times. I do not know what the member expects the government to have done in the time it has been here. We realize it is a serious problem. We have done considerably more than the past government did and will continue to do that.

INCINERATOR PLANT

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. He will be aware that the Michigan Air Pollution Control Commission has approved and given a permit for the construction in Detroit of the world's largest incinerator, which will be 4.8 kilometres from downtown Windsor. The minister also will be aware that in the approval process, evidence was presented indicating there would be an additional 38 cancer deaths per year as a result of this plant.

Does the minister approve of the construction of this plant? What have he and his government done to intervene to stop construction of this plant, which is a health threat to the people of Windsor?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member raises a very good question. He and the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) and the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) previously raised the matter in a letter to me when it was discovered. It is a very important question. The answer is that I do not approve of it, and this government does not approve of the method that was followed.

I have been in conversation with officials of the office of the Governor of Michigan on three separate occasions to discuss this matter and to express in the strongest terms the viewpoint of Ontario that the technology should be decided upon and approved before the incinerator is constructed, rather than after. An undertaking of sorts has been made that there will be potential for retrofitting before the plant is allowed to operate, and Ontario will have input. We do not think that is satisfactory, and I know the member for Windsor-Riverside does not consider it satisfactory.

In addition, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has written to the Governor of Michigan indicating exactly the same thing, that we do not consider that to be satisfactory. The Premier has invoked the provisions of the new accord between Michigan and Ontario to have a meeting.

Mr. Gillies: Are you going to keep this one? Are you going to stick to this one?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: All one has to do is use the word "accord" and it gets a response in the Legislature.

Is the minister aware of the statement the Governor of Michigan made recently that, "if the plant is found to be unsafe, additional equipment would be required to make it safe"? Is the minister aware of David Oved's statement on April 11 on his behalf that, "The governor has promised to clamp new control standards on the incinerator if dioxin and furan emission prove to be as high as expected"?

Why did the ministry make that kind of statement, which has been interpreted as the ministry collapsing on an issue that is important to the people of my community?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If the member read the statement correctly, it was simply relating the reaction of the Governor of Michigan to the information we provided to his office, that Ontario did not consider it to be satisfactory. That was the response of the Governor's office that was given to us.

In the letter he has sent to the Governor, the Premier clearly indicates our position of wanting to have the latest and best technology available implemented before any construction of the plant is allowed.

11 a.m.

In addition, the member would want me to reveal to him that I have been in conversation with the federal Minister of the Environment,

Tom McMillan, about this. He will be raising the issue with Lee Thomas, the head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, so that on both the state and provincial levels and on the national government level this issue, which deserves that kind of priority, will get it. The member can be assured we will fight in every possible way to ensure that the latest and best technology is approved before there is approval to proceed.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is your time that you are wasting.

Mr. Mancini: I want to inform the minister that recently I met with Senator Kelly, who represents the area in which this facility is going to be located, and the senator informed me that he has his own concerns and objections to this project.

I would ask the minister whether he can have his office contact the office of Senator Kelly so we can have a co-ordinated approach both on the Ontario side and on the Michigan side as to what has to be done and what changes—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understood there was a question there.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The suggestion made by the member for Essex South is an excellent suggestion.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is obvious that the members of the Progressive Conservative Party think it is an excellent suggestion as well and are endorsing it. I will most certainly be prepared, in addition to dealing with the EPA and with the state government, to deal with the office of Senator Kelly, because there are obviously people on both sides of the border who share the concerns of all the members in the Windsor and Essex area.

WEED HARVESTING

Mr. Villeneuve: Why has the Minister of Natural Resources decided to discontinue the funding of weed harvesting in eastern Ontario in the Lake St. Lawrence and St. Lawrence River area?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I will take that question under advisement and give the member an answer next week.

Mr. Villeneuve: Weed harvesting has been occurring in Lake St. Francis during the last two years. Is the minister telling me, following the

speech from the throne, that he is going to encourage tourism in eastern Ontario and he does not know what is going on?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I did not say that at all. I said I would take the member's question under advisement and get back to him, and that is what I propose to do.

DARLINGTON NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. In an appearance before the select committee on energy a couple of weeks ago, the minister said he would be making an announcement in response to the committee's recommendations on Darlington in the near future. The minister's staff has been monitoring the committee's recent hearings, in which we have received extensive presentations that have set out substantial, and in many cases realistic, alternatives to the Darlington project.

Can the minister assure this House that in his statement to the Legislature in response to the Darlington question, all of the recent presentations which have been monitored by his staff will be taken into account in the ministry's final conclusion on the Darlington question?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: In response to the question relating to Darlington, this government saw fit to reconstitute a very important committee that the former government had decided was not necessary. The things that flow from it are going to be well respected and we are going to take them into account when we come to the conclusion.

Mr. Mackenzie: I would like to submit to the House notice of a resolution: That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that certain classes of workers are discriminated against by the denial of rights provided to other workers, the regulations under the Employment Standards Act should be amended to provide that standards set by the act, relating to hours of work, overtime pay and public holidays, are applicable to a person employed as a superintendent, janitor or caretaker in a residential building, who resides in the building.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, I thought you wanted to put this in Orders and Notices, then I thought you were going on to another matter; however, I gather you were not. I hope next time you will. It is just a resolution for Orders and Notices.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved second reading of Bill 2, An Act respecting the Labour Disputes

between All-Way Transportation Corporation (Wheel-Trans Division) and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: In my statement to the House yesterday, I outlined the reasons the government has determined that in the public interest it is essential the Wheel-Trans service be resumed with the least possible delay. I do not intend to repeat those arguments but I would like to outline the major features of the bill which is now in front of the House for second reading.

Essentially, this piece of legislation provides for a resolution of the dispute between Wheel-Trans and its employees by sending the dispute to binding arbitration. There are two contracts: one covers approximately 165 drivers and a second covers about 15 mechanics, tow-truck operators and service attendants. Both agreements will be subject to arbitration.

Under the legislation, the executive council is given the authority to appoint the arbitrator on my advice. Once the bill receives royal assent, I shall move promptly to offer that advice to my colleagues. Under section 5 of the bill, the arbitrator is empowered to determine all matters remaining in dispute between the parties immediately before the coming into force of the act. The same section provides that each of the agreements shall be for a term of two years, from January 1, 1986, to December 31, 1987. The arbitrator is required to render a decision within 45 days of his appointment.

Members will note that under section 8 of the bill the basic hourly wage rates are immediately increased by 50 cents per hour. The section makes clear that while the arbitrator is required to include this interim increase in the award, there is nothing to prevent him from granting increases in excess of the interim increase. The bill also provides that, as soon as the act comes into force, "the strike shall be terminated," employees shall return to work and "the employer shall commence...operations" and return to normal service as soon as is practicable.

There are provisions which prohibit the resumption of the strike and which preclude changes in the terms and conditions of employment pending the decision of the arbitrator. The penalty and enforcement provisions of the bill are set out in sections 10 and 11 and are self-explanatory. Under the scheme described, each party in the dispute will have a full and fair opportunity to make its case to the arbitrator.

As the members know, there are other options that might have been followed. Examples are a legislated settlement or final-offer selection.

After most careful consideration, it was decided that in the circumstances the fairest and most equitable means of resolving this dispute was to permit full and unfettered argument of all issues in dispute, other than term, before an independent and respected third party.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Gillies: I will speak briefly on second reading of the bill. I indicate initially to the minister, as I did yesterday in the emergency debate, that the official opposition will support this legislation when it comes to a vote later today, although, I reiterate, not without reservation.

When we caucused yesterday, as individual members we had to weigh very carefully in our minds the bargaining rights of the 178 employees involved against the needs, health and safety of the 14,000 handicapped people who are affected in this dispute. On balance, we recognize that the excellent service provided by Wheel-Trans is nothing short of essential for handicapped people in this municipality, particularly for those confined to wheelchairs, and we feel the legislation is necessary.

However, we have some concern about the way the bill was introduced yesterday, about the very short notice of the government's intention that was given to the opposition parties and about almost a sleight of hand that I believe the government perpetrated yesterday.

The House leaders of the three parties met yesterday morning as they do every week to discuss the business of the House for the coming days. It was indicated by our House leader, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), that our party was concerned about this dispute and would be moving an emergency debate in the afternoon to discuss some sort of resolution and to express the concern of the members of this House about the dispute and the effect it was having. Without notice, and I believe without the knowledge of the government House leader that the government would be acting, the government dropped a bill on the desks of the party leaders and the opposition critics minutes before it proposed to have it considered in this House.

Clearly the minister has the upper hand in this one. I am not naïve. I know the realities and the politics of this situation. As responsible members of this assembly, we would be the last to try to frustrate legislation that is of such vital importance to people who need the service so very much and who depend on its reliability. However, I say to the minister in what I hope he takes to be a constructive spirit of co-operation, I hope

we will not see the business of this House conducted in this fashion in the future or for the balance of this session. When important legislation is to come before this House, we expect reasonable notice and time for the leaders and critics of the parties and others who have to consider the impact of the legislation to have time to consider it in all its complexity.

We will support the legislation. I have a couple of specific things to say about it. As I said to the minister yesterday, I do not see anything particularly innovative or new about the legislation. It is a pretty standard bill, the likes of which we have seen before, legislating the end of a dispute by sending it to the jurisdiction of a single arbitrator for his consideration.

Mr. Mackenzie: You are a master at it.

Mr. McClellan: You wrote the book.

Mr. Gillies: I hear some interjections from the New Democratic Party. I think they would want to be very quiet during this debate. I think the members of the third party would want to keep their peace during this debate because I do not believe they have been quite as embarrassed by a situation as they have been in the past two days. I expect they want a little peace down there.

Mr. McClellan: You wrote the book on strikebreaking and you are still writing it.

Mr. Gillies: We wrote the book on responsible legislation in the needs of the general public in this province. His party has already frustrated this by one day and if it had its way—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member for Brantford please address the chair and pay no attention to the interjections.

Mr. Gillies: I will, Mr. Speaker, but I would say to the members of the third party that if they are not embarrassed by their stand on this bill, then they clearly do not know what embarrassment is.

It is a fairly standard piece of legislation calling for an end to the dispute and for a single arbitrator then to take into consideration the facts before him or her and to bring in an arbitrated settlement to the dispute.

I would hope for several things in this process. I would like the minister's assurance that the arbitrator will take into account the position taken by the bargaining unit when it was going through the negotiating process.

I do not feel it is for me or, frankly, for any other single member of the House to say that the position should stand on its merit. However, I was surprised to hear the Premier (Mr. Peterson) dismiss out of hand this morning during question

period the argument made by the union that it deserves parity with Toronto Transit Commission drivers. I am not saying this is what the arbitrator will end up giving them; but for the Premier, who leads a government that has brought into this House pay equity legislation, to dismiss completely the argument put forward by the union that it deserves parity with TTC drivers strikes me as more than passing strange.

I am sure the minister would agree with me that there are a number of significant parallels between the work done by these employees and the work done by TTC drivers. I found it rather disturbing to see that argument dismissed quite so lightly by the leader of the government, who purports to believe in pay equity.

I will also ask a couple of specific questions of the minister. At first glance, I agree with the minister's decision to go this route as opposed to legislating a settlement or going the route of final-offer selection. I do not believe the officials of the ministry should be the ones to tell these workers what they are going to get. We have an arbitration process in this province. It works fairly well and I think it should be allowed to operate.

I would add at this point that many arbitrated settlements arrived at in this province are reasonable, and some would even say generous. It would be my expectation and my hope that the employees affected will not be totally disappointed by the settlement that is arrived at.

I would ask the minister what led the government to arrive at a 50-cent-an-hour interim settlement, to take effect until such time as the arbitrator's decision is known. I am not saying it is wrong; I would like to know the rationale and the thinking behind 50 cents an hour as opposed to 75 cents or \$1 an hour or whatever it might be. I am assuming it is just an interim measure to put a little extra money in their pockets. I am hoping it is not a signal from the government in any way that it reflects its expectation of what the settlement should give the employees.

I would further ask the minister to respond during this debate to another important point the Premier failed to respond to in question period this morning, and that is the question of money. A good percentage of the money that will be needed to effect this settlement and a good percentage of the money that is required to run this service is provincial money. We would like to know just what the government proposes to put on the table by way of funding to help effect a settlement.

We understand that in the last proposal that was rejected by the employees, the province and Metro council had agreed to share \$377,000 in extra funding for the service. The employees said at the time that they believed this funding would still leave them far behind their TTC counterparts—I do not think that can be disputed—and the proposal to increase their wages at that time was rejected by a vote of 89 to 52. What, then, is the province going to put on the table in order to help effect a settlement in this dispute, to help the arbitrator arrive at his settlement?

11:20 a.m.

We have to recognize that these drivers now earn about \$10 an hour and the mechanics involved earn between \$11.25 and \$11.75 an hour, but they lack a number of things. I know the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) will agree they are well behind other people in the transportation industry in terms of pensions and other fringe benefits. We can draw the parallel again to the TTC workers, who have a much more generous benefits package than do the Wheel-Trans workers.

I will ask the minister to consider speaking to the arbitrator or at least raising the question with the arbitrator about whether that should be a reasonable part of the settlement that is imposed.

The bottom line is that this party believes the balance has been tipped between the collective bargaining rights of the employees and the health and safety needs of the handicapped people involved. On balance, we will be supporting the legislation.

During the course of this debate, my colleague the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) will be participating. He should be congratulated for being the first member in this House to bring forward a proposal for an emergency debate in this session. He brought this issue to a focus that I believe directly led the government to introduce this legislation. It bears repetition that this party made this dispute an issue of sufficient importance that the government saw fit to introduce this legislation.

I look forward to my colleague's remarks and the remarks of others who will participate in this debate. On behalf of the official opposition, I say again that this is not a type of legislation or action that we undertake lightly. This strike affected some people in this municipality and this province who we, as members, purport to care for and purport to want to do everything we can for so they can pursue their own lives, get to their jobs and other important appointments and lead

as normal a life as possible, faced, as they are, with a myriad of disabilities.

We have to remember that handicapped people in this province experience the highest unemployment rate of any group in our society. Handicapped people confined to wheelchairs in this province have an unemployment rate of more than 80 per cent. That is not acceptable to me, and I suspect very strongly it is not acceptable to any member of this House.

Handicapped people have come an awfully long way in the past decade. I believe some of the initiatives our government put in place have helped in that effort. However, handicapped people do not want handouts. They do not want government caring for them. They do not want Big Brother directing every aspect of their lives. For the most part, the handicapped people I know and talk to want to make their own way. This very vital transportation service is one of the prime mechanisms in place to assist them in doing that.

We believe that service has to be operated and that the dispute has to be ended. I also believe an arbitrated settlement can go a long way to satisfying the legitimate desires of the striking employees, and I am very proud of the position our party has taken in this legislation.

Mr. McClellan: The member for Brantford may be proud of his party's position on this. Quite frankly, if I were him, I would be ashamed. This strike against Wheel-Trans is taking place precisely because of the way the Conservative government set up the Wheel-Trans service in the first place and because of the way it systematically underfunded it ever since it was set up in 1979.

I regret to say the present government either does not appear to understand or, if it does understand, does not appear to be prepared to change the structure of the Wheel-Trans service. I want to review some of the background and history so we can at least understand why we are dealing with strikebreaking legislation on the second day of the second session of this parliament.

I brought in my Wheel-Trans file, which goes back to 1975. The first section of the file is a collection of letters pleading with successive Tory cabinet ministers to stop studying the matter and to set up a wheelchair transportation service that would be an integral part of the regular TTC service. It would involve modifications to the existing transit system so disabled people would be able to use our regular buses and subway system as well as to have access to specialized wheelchair facilities that would be run as part of

the regular TTC service and available to the disabled as a matter of right as taxpayers.

What did we get when the government finally set up the service in 1979? We got the cheapest solution to the problem, a contracted-out service set up as a third-rate operation with vehicles that were unsafe, hazardous and completely inadequate and a schedule that was ridiculous and totally inappropriate to the requirements of handicapped people who were working. If they had leisure interests, the service was entirely inaccessible.

The second part of my Wheel-Trans file has a series of responses from the Minister of Transportation and Communications outlining the safety hazards that were identified in the All-Way Transportation Corp. vehicles in 1979 and 1980. There is also a series of successive safety violation reports, with no remedial action from the Conservative government. It is a very melancholy experience going through that old file.

There is a letter here from a young York University student, Linda Pyke, which was published in the *Globe and Mail* in 1979. It set out in six points the safety hazards of the Wheel-Trans service because it had been set up on a flimsy basis as a separate, subcontracted service, instead of as part of the regular TTC service. She notes:

"The roofs are too low for adult riders. Wheelchairs are belted in. The people in the wheelchairs are not. One serious jolt and an already disabled person could meet with further injury. Vans are constantly breaking down. Hydraulic lifts have stalled, leaving the person in the wheelchair a few feet off the ground terrified. The drivers themselves are harried, overworked and underpaid. Those who were formerly with Wheelchair Mobile have unresolved grievances. This combination makes them less patient on the road and less attentive to passenger safety."

She concludes:

"Until someone is actually killed or until a paraplegic becomes a quadriplegic as a result of this negligence, I suspect Wheel-Trans will remain a token and dangerous gesture."

That was signed by Linda Pyke in July 1979.

11:30 a.m.

The next document in my file is the inquest report on the death of Linda Pyke. She was the one whom she predicted would be killed as a result of the systematic negligence and the way this service had been established as a third-rate and fundamentally dangerous service. She herself was killed while riding on Wheel-Trans. The

coroner's inquest simply states that she came to her death from severe cranial cerebral injuries and sets out two pages of demands for improvements to the Wheel-Trans system, the same system we are looking at.

As a result of the death of Linda Pyke, the government replaced the broken-down, rattletrap and unsafe vehicles it had imposed on the physically handicapped of this province. It replaced them with new and modern vehicles. However, it has not solved the fundamental problem, that Wheel-Trans remains a separate service outside the regular service of the TTC.

Wheel-Trans is still not a first-class service. As speakers pointed out yesterday in the debate, it is still difficult for the handicapped to obtain adequate service in a prompt manner. The staff who work at Wheel-Trans are still treated as second-class drivers relative to the work force of the TTC itself. That is why we have a strike. It is as simple as that. The drivers provide what is supposed to be a regular TTC service, but they are denied decent wages and all benefits.

It is incredible to be reminded that the TTC drivers who provide the Wheel-Trans service do not have a pension plan of any kind. It is incredible to be reminded that these drivers, who provide such wonderful service, have no long-term disability benefits and yet they are engaged in work that is dangerous and, in many cases, heavy-duty as they assist handicapped people into and out of their homes and into and out of the vans. They are at risk of injury, either through vehicle accident or the heavy-duty demands of the job, and yet they have no long-term disability benefits. I guess they will just be thrown on the scrap heap.

In the past, the government was quite content to allow this second-class facility to provide third-rate service and to treat the employees as being less entitled to decent wages and benefits than other members of the TTC work force. It is simply, fundamentally, self-evidently and obviously unfair and unjust. The Minister of Labour knows that as surely as he is sitting here this morning.

When confronted with the threat of a strike by doctors, this government says it is prepared to give them all the withheld moneys under the Canada Health Act, now amounting to some \$50 million. To prevent the threat of a strike, this government is willing to throw that money at the doctors who are extra billing already.

Instead of passing Bill 94, it is negotiating to see whether the doctors can be seduced with this wonderful gob of cash, \$50 million. When the

member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) was the Minister of Health and the doctors in Ontario actually went on strike, how was that strike ended? It ended with a settlement that has cost \$1 billion since 1982.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That left everybody unhappy.

Mr. McClellan: They are still not happy. Surely the point is not whether people are happy. The point is, how is it possible for the government of Ontario to find \$1 billion in 1982 and another \$50 million in 1986 to try to appease the doctors, and yet it is unable to find the \$220,000 that would have produced a settlement in the Wheel-Trans dispute? It is unable to find sufficient resources to provide these workers with a pension plan. It is unable to find sufficient resources for these workers, who are obviously regarded in some way as essential since every time they go on strike the right to strike is taken away from them by legislation.

That we cannot find the money to provide them with a decent wage, a pension plan or disability benefits is preposterous. It is simply an indication that there is one law for the rich and the doctors and another for everybody else. The message is as loud and clear as anything this government has done or said since it took office in May. It is able to find \$50 million, which it has put on the table for purposes of negotiation with the doctors and is begging the doctors to take, and yet it is unable to find sufficient money to provide a first-class transportation service for the physically handicapped in Ontario and to provide the people who work in that service with decent wages and benefits. That is all the government is saying to the people of this province by its actions here today.

The government could have settled this strike 11 days ago by undoing the damage that was done by the Conservative government in 1979 when it set up the Wheel-Trans scheme. The government could have undone that mischief 11 days ago or at any time since the strike started. It could have gone in with a spirit of generosity and said: "We know there has been an injustice here. This program was set up badly; those defects need to be corrected now. In a spirit of goodwill, we are going to do what it takes to get you a decent settlement."

The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) has not even bothered to show up for this debate. He should have been at the bargaining table with the Minister of Labour and said: "This is what I am going to do to make this a world-class"—that is a phrase he likes to

use—"transportation service for the physically handicapped." It is not a world-class service, and it is not a first-class service.

The government should be ashamed of itself for the way it has handled this. It is simply an intolerable situation. I understand the public relations advantages of posing and posturing as the friends of the physically disabled, shedding crocodile tears about the plight of the physically handicapped, as the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) did yesterday. He also is no longer with us during this debate.

The government has the resources—it is sitting on them and refusing to release them—to turn Wheel-Trans into a first-class service and to provide decent wages and benefits. It is the government of Ontario that pays the bill, it is the government of Ontario that has withheld the funds in the past, and it is the government of Ontario that is responsible for this strike. Only the government of Ontario will be able ultimately to change the structural problems in this system and put it on a solid financial footing where these kinds of injustices and inadequacies in service will not exist.

We are opposed to this legislation because it is a real cop-out. It does nothing for the physically handicapped. The way to solve the problems of the physically handicapped is to support the services they need on an adequate basis, and not to posture and try to score political Brownie points by taking advantage of the workers who are serving the physically handicapped.

11:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I rise today in support of Bill 2, and my reasons for doing so are multiple. The dispute between All-Way Transportation Corp. and its workers has dragged on for 12 days now. As of yesterday, prospects of an early settlement appeared dim and unpromising. Without taking sides in this dispute, we in this government had to evaluate and assess conflicting interests: the interests of the workers, drivers and maintenance staff of the Wheel-Trans service versus the interests of the 14,000 subscribers to the service. In an attempt to be fair to all, we opted to legislate the workers back to work and to refer the dispute with All-Way to compulsory binding arbitration.

This was not an easy decision, since we recognize that a free, open and effective collective bargaining process is the key to harmonious labour relations and to fairness for both workers and employers. The system ensures the prosperity of all in a democratic society. However, in this instance there was an innocent third party: the

disabled members of our community, many of whom are elderly. These individuals are recognized as one of the most vulnerable elements of our society and their livelihood and general wellbeing are being jeopardized.

Members know that, as an interim measure, a few days ago the Minister of Community and Social Services announced the establishment of an emergency service. This service provided a temporary solution to the mounting number of hardship cases being brought to our attention by the media and being brought to my personal attention by disabled individuals. Physically disabled clients who are unable to arrange their own transportation and who require rides for essential services such as food shopping, cashing cheques or attending the doctor can have these costs reimbursed by that ministry.

However, this service, under an ever increasing demand, is not capable of replacing, nor is it meant to replace, the existing Wheel-Trans service. Thousands of individuals in Metropolitan Toronto rely on transportation to get to school, training, work and almost everywhere else. While support networks for transportation, such as family, friends and other community services, can help, they cannot fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the service.

While the Ministry of Community and Social Services hotline can provide information and identify options for people who are experiencing difficulties associated with the strike, it cannot substitute effectively for Wheel-Trans service. Quite simply, for an individual in a motorized wheelchair, there are no alternatives.

The policy of this government for a number of years has been to promote the goals of integration and independence for all its disabled citizens. Access to programs and services and the ability to function in all aspects of daily life are essential to the achievement of these goals. With access prevented through the denial of transportation, there is contravention of the policy thrust and the principles of integration that we have fought so hard to achieve.

It is important to understand that transportation has long been one of the most central issues faced by persons with disabilities. One in 10 persons in Canada is disabled. One million are estimated to be mobility handicapped in some way, and many of them have special transportation needs. Their numbers will increase steadily and will double by 2020.

When one looks specifically at Metro Toronto, one sees that Wheel-Trans has evolved from a pilot project in 1975 with a ridership of fewer

than 50 to a total of 14,000 registered riders in 1986 with up to 88 vehicles on the road at peak hours and a budget of more than \$13 million. It is essential that such a service, continually growing, function efficiently for the wellbeing of its users, our disabled citizens.

My role as minister responsible for disabled persons includes, in addition to the internal co-ordination of policy initiatives for the disabled, the provision of information to disabled individuals and their families, public awareness initiatives to heighten understanding of the abilities of disabled persons and liaison with community and advocacy organizations representing the interests of persons with disabilities.

Accordingly, yesterday morning I met with representatives and spokespersons from the disabled community. The urgency of the situation was brought to my attention in spades. The individuals representing the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, Persons United for Self-Help in Ontario, the Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-help Tactics, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Ontario March of Dimes and Beryl Potter were unanimous in their view that something had to be done quickly.

I am most confident that, by and large, the majority are supportive of the actions we initiated yesterday. Bill 2 will ensure the restoration of the service and also provide for an interim increase to the workers. It will ensure that the ultimate agreement will take into consideration the interests of all involved, as determined by an impartial arbitrator. It is facile to argue the relative merits of the cases of the two proponents in this dispute. In my view, discussion and resolution of these are best left to those with expertise in the field.

In conclusion, I urge all members of this assembly to lend their support to this initiative. Not to act would be patently unfair to those people whose basic rights to productive lives are being compromised.

Mr. Cousens: This is a very important debate on an important subject. I am sorry we could not have dealt with it yesterday. The government delayed its preparation and presentation of the legislation and the third party further delayed its consideration. Obviously, time to consider it has not changed their opinion and they are about to go against this legislation.

History has a way of catching up to people. On August 29, 1984, during the fourth session of the 32nd Parliament, the member for Windsor-

Sandwich (Mr. Wrye)—at that time he was not honourable, but I will call him honourable now—was speaking on the proposed Toronto Transit Commission strike. It is interesting to hear what the minister had to say. "...I want to say I will vote for this piece of legislation with a great deal of reluctance." This had to do with getting the TTC back to work before the Pope arrived.

Mr. McClellan: Before they went on strike.

Mr. Cousens: Okay. The member should listen to his kind words, though.

Mr. McClellan: Just remember that.

Mr. Cousens: I am remembering everything. I listened with great love and interest to what the member had to say, although I did not appreciate anything.

The member for Windsor-Sandwich went on to say: "I do this with reluctance because I do not think this bill was necessary. What was necessary was for us to have a government that would handle these disputes properly and begin to think of people...be they the employees, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, who have bargained in good faith and who had the right to expect this government..." and so on.

It is funny; we are talking here about someone who was saying one thing then and is doing something quite different now. I appreciate the action the minister has to take now, but it is odd that only a short time ago he was saying that.

He said, "If it was the will of this government to deny them the right to strike to preserve the papal visit, that is one thing, but what we have here is political grandstanding of the most cynical kind..." Whoa, Billy.

I do not think any member of this House should ever be accused of grandstanding. I would not accuse the minister of that even now.

The member for Kitchener-Wilmot, who is the Minister of Community and Social Services this week, also made a speech on the TTC situation. He said, "I urge the government to work for a real negotiated settlement." He then went on to say: "In addition, it would do two very important things. First, it would avoid precedent-setting legislation which destroys collective bargaining rights and which provides the employees affected with no compensating guarantee of fair treatment. Second, it would do an immense amount to overcome the resentment and ill will that is poisoning relations..."

11:50 a.m.

The history of what goes on in this Legislature has a way of coming back. The situation was somewhat different. It was the TTC and was two years ago. We were talking about legislation under which the government at that time, under the leadership of Premier William Davis, made sure there was no strike to impede the Pope's visit.

There are parallels. We are talking about a strike that has already been in existence for 11 or 12 days, a strike that could have been affected by the action, interest and involvement of key players in the government. It was apparent that this had become a crisis as of February 12 when the first proposal for a 2.5 per cent increase was rejected by a vote of 79 to one. It is apparent that the drivers have been consistent in their demands for wage parity with the TTC. It was obvious to everybody else in the province, so surely the Liberal government was aware there was a need for additional funds to help resolve the negotiations that were going on with the union.

We are talking about the involvement of another government. We are talking about a lack of funding availability. I asked the Premier a supplementary question this morning about what additional help he was prepared to give to make sure that if the arbitration award is higher than can be afforded there will be support from the government to do it. That is what happens when there are negotiations in good faith, but these negotiations have hardly even been continuing. Who knows where the money is going to come from? It has to come from two sources: the government or the people who pay for it. Obviously, the government was not prepared to make any commitment.

The nature of the demands was not terribly unreasonable, given the responsibility of the job of the drivers. The handicapped deserve greater attention than was given to them by the Liberals. Every opportunity was given to the Liberal government to get involved. Chairman Flynn of Metropolitan Toronto was calling for help. Special interest groups of the disabled and the handicapped were calling for help. However, the negotiations went virtually untouched by the members opposite.

Let us start with the number one person who did not play a role in this whole situation and who is not even in the House now. I am talking about the Premier of this province, the person who made a great display of interest last August when the TTC might have gone on strike. When it affected everybody, he was prepared to respond. When it affects the disabled and handicapped, a

group that does not necessarily have loud spokespeople to go out and fight for it, he is absent. He is remiss. He did not act. He must have known, he must have cared, but he did not act. It could be he has been so busy with the doctors that he has not had time to do anything else, but I do not believe that. I believe it is because it has not been an issue of importance to him on his scale of values. That is a very serious concern to all of us.

Another person who did not play a role was the Minister of Community and Social Services who only in the latter days began to speak out and offer a few bits of help so that the disabled and handicapped can have an interim form of transportation. We are talking about a situation that has been escalating. There have been all kinds of opportunities for involvement. However, the Minister of Community and Social Services did virtually nothing.

The Minister of Labour may well have had some people down in the bowels of his ministry who were involved, but his presence was not visible. If he thinks it was, that is one thing. To the rest of Ontario, he was absent.

Where was the Minister of Transportation and Communications? It all flows from moneys from his ministry.

The Premier, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Transportation and Communications were all absent from the scene. The only person who was doing anything was another member, the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Ruprecht). Until he stood up yesterday, I did not know he was the minister for the disabled, because it does not even say that in the issue we have here. It turns out that the member for Parkdale is the minister for the disabled.

Mr. Rowe: It is the best-kept secret in Queen's Park.

Mr. Cousens: It is one of the best-kept secrets in Queen's Park.

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: We keep reading all the government's press releases.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Everybody knows it. Between sessions, the members opposite just put their feet up and do not pay attention.

Mr. Cousens: We have been paying attention. We heard him say yesterday that he had been meeting with different groups. He was not meeting with the people who could make a difference in the negotiations. Had he been talking to the Premier or to one of the other

ministers who could do something, or had he been talking to the people in the union negotiations or to the negotiators themselves, maybe something could have happened. He was too far down on the totem pole to effect any change.

We are faced now with emergency legislation on something that could have been resolved through good negotiation, possibly through some persuasive influence by one of those people mentioned. We would not have had to be doing this today under these conditions.

I do believe that the legislation was tabled yesterday because of the initiative taken by my party yesterday morning at around 10:30 at the House leaders' meeting—and it was mentioned by members of the third party yesterday—when we gave proper notice of three and a half hours that yesterday afternoon we would table a bill for an emergency debate on this strike. We gave notice, according to our rules, so that other members of the House would be prepared for it.

The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and House leader for the Liberals was at that meeting, and I can see what happened. As soon as it was over, he ran back to his office and said: "Hey, guys. Surely there is someone within the Ministry of Labour who has prepared legislation that we can raise and put into the House right away. The Conservatives are about to bring up an emergency debate. It is going to become public and everybody is going to know that we have not done anything about it. Maybe we should react now and get this thing solved, because obviously they are concerned about it. We had better react."

Hon. Mr. Nixon: You are wacky.

Mr. Cousens: I am not, Sir Robert. The fact is that no one knew the government was coming in with this legislation until the very last minute. At around 1:58 the members of the third party found out about it. At 2:15 the government handed around a paper with wet ink on it, because it had just finished copying it.

Mr. Rowe: The second-best-kept secret at Queen's Park.

Mr. Cousens: The second-best-kept secret at Queen's Park. The government caused a problem for our friends in the third party, because the fact is they had not been informed in the way that they are told everything else the government is doing. They had to go away and caucus.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Except that the member is voting for it.

Mr. Cousens: I am going to vote for it.

Mr. Villeneuve: They are voting for us.

Mr. Cousens: I am not voting for the government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order.

Mr. Cousens: I seldom miss a vote, and neither does our party. I am more interested in the balance that has to be maintained in this.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Welcome into bed.

Mr. Cousens: I want to make the point very clear. They were on the horns of a dilemma. Do they support the unions or do they support the disabled? They went away last night and came back today with what their position is. That is not for me to discuss; it is for them to do.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: They are always consistent.

Mr. Cousens: I could not say what the Treasurer says, because I come from a quite different background and a quite different perspective. My first concern, and the concern of our party, is the needs of the disabled. When we think of the time that has passed for them before action has been taken, that is the critical concern of our party. It is the concern of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), it is the concern of the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) and it is the concern of each of our members, who are genuinely concerned about the needs of these people.

I am pleased that our initiative for the emergency debate triggered the response by the government to bring in the emergency legislation, which, with our support—not with the support of its friends in the accord but with our support—will carry and will be passed. It will mean that people who are otherwise suffering because of lack of mobility will be able to get out again.

12 noon

While this bill is a drastic means of solving a problem, it is one way of addressing the needs of the handicapped. Too often the needs of the handicapped have been shunted aside. I have seen this in other legislation by the new Liberal government when it has brought in legislation as it affected the vocational rehabilitation schemes for the post-secondary handicapped. It has not begun to understand the needs of the handicapped. It has not addressed them. It has created more problems than it has solved. This strike highlights the need for improvement in transportation services for the handicapped.

Handicapped riders have no viable alternatives to Wheel-Trans. We as people of Ontario must begin to look at expanding the present system to accommodate the needs of the handicapped

people of our province, now and in the future, to ensure their independence and dignity.

We also have to respect the drivers' work. They are more than just drivers. They have many onerous tasks to perform which go far beyond transporting people. They must assist their riders in getting on and off their vehicles, as well as caring for them in their needs. They have become friends with their riders.

That is one of the reasons that during this strike the handicapped have been very quiet in raising protest because they deal with the drivers on a very personal and ongoing basis.

Here in this Legislature, we need to increase the options for the disabled. We need to place them on the same footing as a mobile person. We need to look into the future.

I am sorry there was nothing in the speech from the throne that opened up these possibilities. We do not see any long-term solutions for the handicapped and disabled in this province. We must be aware that the urban sprawl is now opening up opportunities for many more people to live beyond Metropolitan Toronto, but they may want to come into Toronto. We need to provide better services for people who live my riding, York Centre, in Markham, Unionville, Thornhill and Vaughan, to cross the borders of Metro Toronto in using transportation services for the handicapped.

The unemployment situation is dismal enough in this province. It is all the more dismal if one is handicapped. It is all the more dismal if, because of this strike, one has lost his or her job. That has happened. That is the hard reality of what has happened because of this strike. Some people have been set back further in their process towards normalization because of the failure of this government to meet their needs.

It is not easy for anyone to end a strike in this way, but we must do what we can to help the disabled, to help this process of normalization. So it is with a great deal of reluctance that we proceed today in supporting the Liberal government in its legislation.

Mr. Warner: You love hammering workers. Do not kid me, you love it. You would take away the right to strike from every worker in this province.

Mr. Cousens: No. In the meantime, what would the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) do? What would he be doing about the 14,000 people who are not going out? He would be doing nothing. He had a chance yesterday—

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cousens: He had a chance yesterday to get the legislation passed before last night, and what did he do? He let the bells ring.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: This is grave disorder.

Mr. Cousens: We are dealing with an important issue that is being made fun of by a member. I see it as being far greater than that. We look forward to seeing this question resolved, and I look forward to it not happening again.

Mr. Foulds: I rise to speak in this debate and I do so, frankly, with a deep sense of shame. I am ashamed of this Legislature today.

I am ashamed of the Liberal Party, which cloaks itself in progressivism but the first substantial bill that it brings into the House in this new session of the Legislature does not seek conciliation, does not seek consensus, does not seek compromise; it hammers the workers.

I am ashamed of the hypocrisy of the Tory party that governed this province for 42 years, that had the responsibility for dealing with the needs of the handicapped for 42 years and failed to meet those needs.

As my colleague pointed out in the emergency debate yesterday, when the party to my right had the responsibility of government, instead of bringing in an integrated service that would make handicapped transportation available to all the disabled over all our communities that had a public transportation system, whether it be Metropolitan Toronto, Thunder Bay or Ottawa, it chose this selective route of giving service to only a limited number of the disabled. As my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere pointed out, it failed to give the kind of service that is needed on a daily basis so the disabled are not prisoners in their homes.

This is a very difficult dispute. There is no question about that. It is very difficult when we are dealing with the needs of a group like the disabled, needs that are so obvious and that have to be met, but the Minister of Labour and his ministry do not have to meet them every single time by hammering the workers.

Let us say, for example, the minister felt it necessary to bring in legislation. Why could he not bring it in, put it in the Orders and Notices and then see what the parties would do over the weekend? Why did he not give them four days of negotiating time? When he was in his mediation, conciliation and negotiation, why did he not do what was agreed upon? Both the management

and the union had agreed to the first year of the contract.

If he had to bring in this legislation, why did he not put in the legislation the base that both parties had already agreed to, which was \$1 for the first year instead of the lousy 50 cents? Why did he not try, as the union was willing to do, to get a one-year agreement, to which both parties had already agreed? Why did the ministry fail to take its responsibility seriously? That is what negotiation is about; that is what mediation is about; that is what conciliation is about.

Let me speak for the moment to the substance of the dispute. None of us in this House denies that the handicapped have a right to the transportation that is provided. Most of us in this party would argue that the handicapped have a right to far greater transportation facilities than the beggars opposite are currently providing. They deserve that transportation, as I said earlier, throughout the general transportation system.

Let us look at the elements in the dispute. Does anybody in this House seriously believe that workers working for Wheel-Trans and helping disabled people should be paid \$4 an hour less than their colleagues in the general transportation system? Does anybody in this House reasonably feel that is just? The Tories apparently do; the Liberals apparently do.

Does anybody in this House feel the workers working for Wheel-Trans should not have a pension plan? Does anybody in this House reasonably think somebody working in this field of what should be public transportation should not have a pension plan? The Tories apparently do; the Liberals apparently do.

Surely to goodness, in the last half of the 20th century, when we are talking about shorter work time, high-tech development, work sharing and all those nice things about co-operation among labour, government and management, this is an opportunity for the government to have shown some initiative and make that happen. The way to make it happen is by making conditions equal for those who are served, the disabled, and for those who work with them, in this case the transportation workers.

By hammering through this legislation, the Ministry of Labour is trying to victimize the workers and paint the workers as villains of the piece, and it is trying to get out from its responsibility for bringing together the parties in a dispute.

12:10 p.m.

I want to conclude with this thought. I have been in this House for 15 years and I believe I

have sat through more than 20 debates when the government has brought in legislation that forced workers back to work. This is the third time we have done it with transportation workers.

I give a warning to this House. Every time we bring in special legislation such as this, which abrogates general legislation that we have passed, we rupture and threaten democracy because we say, "It is all right for you to have these democratic rights except when the going gets tough." It has always been my belief that the core and essence of democracy was that we did not hammer those civil rights, the collective rights that we developed over centuries for people, when the going got tough.

When the going gets tough, it is important in a democracy to retain our laws, make sure they are abided by and keep the rights of the workers in perspective and as a sacred trust. We, as a Legislature, do not have the right to victimize them in one special case, as we are doing in this case. That is why I am ashamed to take part in this debate in this Legislature at present. However, I am very proud of my colleagues in this party because we did not allow the legislative process to be disrupted and we did not allow this bill to be rammed through in an hour and a half. That is an abrogation of our duty as legislators. Those due processes are put in place to protect the rights of minorities in our society. In this difficult dispute and in these difficult circumstances, I am very proud that the New Democratic Party has the courage to vote on behalf of the working people of this province.

Mr. Harris: I would like to make a few brief comments. I do not want to go over old ground and repeat some of the things that have been said by my two colleagues who have already spoken on this bill, but I do want to add a few words.

First, I agree with much of what has been said by the New Democratic Party on this issue. Perhaps I differ from even some of my own colleagues on this point, but I do not believe the NDP was responsible for this bill not being passed yesterday as opposed to today. I agree with the NDP's sentiments that this bill very likely will have received second reading, third reading and royal assent in less than 24 hours of our having seen a draft of it. That is a long way from what anybody could refer to as impeding the progress of the Legislature or holding things up.

I have a great deal of sympathy for that party's position on the mechanics and the way in which the government chose to deal with this issue leading up to the legislation and, particularly,

with the way it chose to deal with it in the Legislature. There is absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind that this piece of legislation would not have been introduced yesterday had our party not moved the emergency debate.

I do not want to imply from this that we are taking credit for the introduction of the legislation. It was not our intent that legislation be introduced. It was our intent that the government treat this dispute and this difficulty with even one tenth of the vigour with which it treated the threat of a TTC strike in 1985 for those workers and people who are not handicapped.

If anyone doubts that the government planned to come forward with legislation, I ask him to reflect on a couple of things. First, if it was its intention on the first day, the bill probably could have been passed yesterday had more than two minutes' notice of the intention been circulated to the other two parties, as normally happens.

I do not think anybody should interpret that the difficulty the NDP has had with this bill has in any way impeded its progress. I have a great deal of sympathy for the members of the third party.

If the government wants us to believe it planned to introduce this bill, then it also wants us to believe that its method of operating is not to involve its House leader in what is happening in the House. It is no secret the government House leader has indicated that he had the same notice we did; in other words, it was 1:58 p.m. when he found out what was going to happen in what is supposed to be his job of putting forward the government business.

Thus, the evidence is pretty conclusive that bringing this bill forward was not planned. Why was it brought forward then? I believe that happened because the government did not have the commitment and the will to involve itself in effecting a settlement, as it did in the TTC dispute. It is a very glaring example of the government saying there are only 9,000 riders, not one million, so the issue is not as important. No doubt the Premier involved himself and his government in negotiations in the TTC situation. Money was offered to the TTC to help settle the strike and pressure was put on the TTC to avoid a strike in 1985. Had that same interest and the same dollars been shown by the government in the Wheel-Trans negotiations, we would not be debating this legislation today and a settlement would have been reached.

I agree with my colleagues in the NDP and I compliment them. I understand where they have a fundamental disagreement with this type of legislation. Frankly, I have a fundamental

difficulty with this type of legislation as well. I will be supporting it most reluctantly and only because I do not believe this government has the interest, the time, the will or the commitment to involve itself as it did in the 1985 TTC situation. In the absence of that, regrettably with this party governing, it appears to be the only way we are going to get the problem resolved.

Let me turn to some of the statements that have been made today that concern me greatly about what will happen after this bill is passed. In what I felt was a direct threat to the arbitrator, the Premier stated that his government does not believe in parity. Before this arbitrator investigates and rules, he has a statement on the record from the Premier that this government does not believe in parity. I am astounded that the Premier would state such a thing. I am astounded that in this very delicate situation—the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) has said this is the third time legislation has been brought forward ordering transit strikers back to work—that kind of pressure and that kind of bias have been put to an independent arbitrator as he is given the task of arbitrating this dispute. That is irresponsible and not becoming of the government, but it is perhaps typical of the loose lips involved in some of the first minister's statements.

12:20 p.m.

Another example of what bothers me is the 50 cents an hour. How can one pull a figure of 50 cents out of the air? The minister no doubt will argue it is a little bit of something in the interim. I argue that one has to be very careful when one pulls a figure out of the air in the interim. Is it the government concern that, "An arbitrator may go down the middle, so let us low-ball this thing"? Very rarely does one see an arbitrator come outside the parameters of the offers that go back and forth. My understanding—I cannot get the information; perhaps the minister will give it to us—is that the last offer rejected by the union and by the Wheel-Trans drivers and mechanics was well in excess of \$1 an hour. I heard one figure of \$1.20 an hour but I cannot get confirmation of it.

Why low-ball at 50 cents and send another signal to the arbitrator that a settlement of 50 or 51 cents is still acceptable? That is the signal that is being sent out. The minister shakes his head, but if he is prepared to rule out 51 cents, then it should be 52 cents. If he is prepared to rule out 75 cents, then it should be 76 cents. It should start somewhere over the offer that was unacceptable. Surely that—or nothing—should have been the amount that was placed in there, with pretty strict time constraints on the arbitrator.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: It is 45 days.

Mr. Harris: If it is 45 days, then I suspect the difference between 50 cents an hour for a period of 45 days to the Wheel-Trans workers and the threat of the lower settlement that will come out of that, caused by throwing in 50 cents, is a far greater price to pay than the advantage of having the few pennies the government will give them for those 45 days. I am disturbed by that aspect of the legislation.

The summation of the Premier's attitude, the rather flippant way he rejected parity today, and the 50 cents, send signals to the arbitrator about the lack of commitment of the government to involve itself in these negotiations and the lack of commitment to provide the necessary funds that will be shared with the city of Toronto as the government did to help avoid a TTC strike in 1985. This leads me to believe this legislation was concocted and pulled together between 11:45 a.m. yesterday and 2 p.m. yesterday.

Some have asked me, "How can that possibly be?" Quite frankly, the deputy minister was there—I see him in this chamber—and one could ask him. As we look at this piece of legislation, the ministry is capable of slapping this together in 10 minutes. It is a fill-in-the-blanks type of legislation. There is absolutely no difficulty in preparing this in a very short time.

Unfortunately, that lack of thought may be one of the things that led to this 50-cent figure. I am concerned. I am not happy about this legislation. I will support it in the absence of an obvious commitment by this government to have it settled through the normal channels and the obvious lack of commitment to what ought to be demonstrated in this area. I regret it appears that the government cares when you talk about a million people, but when you talk about 9,000 people, it is not that big a deal. That is tragic in this day and age.

Mr. Mackenzie: I rise to oppose the bill before us. I want to make it clear that I feel no embarrassment at all for consistently working to protect workers' rights. Workers' rights in the province do not come easily, and the issue is the right of workers to free collective bargaining in this province.

No one will argue with the importance of the service to handicapped people in Toronto. There are no apologies by New Democrats for a consistent fight to provide and improve services to the handicapped. We have not taken a back seat to anyone on that issue. However, to try to use the argument that rights and benefits must be denied because of the clientele is a form of

blackmail that does credit to no one who voices it. It is an argument that is also rejected by most of the handicapped people involved. They recognize, as does any fair-minded and objective person in society, that the approach used by this government clearly establishes the service provided almost as an afterthought, a second-class service.

It is not a comprehensive and integrated system; it is a Band-Aid service that depends on the service providers. The drivers must subsidize the service offered to the handicapped. The misuse of the workers is general. We see the same thing with the Disabled and Aged Regional Transit System in the city of Hamilton. They are also required to subsidize the service and have many of the same problems in terms of benefits that the workers in Toronto face.

What is needed is a full-scale service that recognizes one of the most obviously disadvantaged groups in our society. What is not needed is yet another attack on the basic rights of workers. What is not needed is the exploitation of roughly 180 workers in the city who apparently are not entitled to the wherewithal to provide decent housing for their families and are not entitled to long-term income disability coverage, proper vacations or decent pensions in their retirement years. Instead, they are expected to work for less on every count: wages, pensions and income protection. I want to reiterate that this applies in other cities as well as in Toronto.

It is difficult not to make a comparison with the way this government has kowtowed to the doctors but has come down hard and quickly on the Wheel-Trans employees. I do not know how we can call it anything but a double standard. If we had put a fraction of the time into negotiating the Wheel-Trans situation that we have with the doctors, there would have been a settlement before this.

It is also disturbing that as one of the justifications for the legislation, the Minister of Labour and the Premier seem to use the fact that the workers voted against the contract settlement recommended by their negotiating committee. Are they saying that even a democratic vote is to be the basis for losing workers' rights in Ontario?

I cannot help but think of the many arguments we have had and of the many slights that have been made by both old parties in this House about union bosses and control of workers. It is funny that a different tune is played when the workers decide that what was negotiated was not good enough and, through the democratic process, say, "We need a better contract than this."

I want to make it clear that I think there could have been a settlement. The additional funds needed to arrive at a settlement were minimal. The effort was not put in. Some criticism can be made of the arbitration and conciliation services and of the minister's emphasis on the importance of getting a settlement in this case. The move to back-to-work legislation comes all too quickly. Frankly, I do not think it was hard for this government to do, as it was not for previous governments. This government, like the previous government, finds it easier all the time to impose an agreement in a strike situation. Invariably, the justification relates to the hurt that would be caused if the workers did not continue to subsidize what is already an inadequate service.

The handicapped with whom I have talked in this city do not believe that two wrongs make a right. They are unhappy with the position they are put in. Being used to denying justice to those who also have a legitimate case is not a good position to be put in and does not speak well for this ministry. I do not intend to support this bill, now or in the future.

12:30 p.m.

Ms. Bryden: I also do not support the bill for the same reasons my colleagues have so eloquently expressed. I know the kind of hardships disabled people are suffering. Many in my riding are dependent on Wheel-Trans, and it is important to enable them not only to take jobs but also to share in social or cultural activities in the community, as well as to keep their medical appointments.

Any employer who fires a Wheel-Trans user because he or she cannot get to work during the strike should be strongly censured, because the employer is indicating he is not prepared to share the inconvenience and hardship which sometimes results from the exercise of legal collective bargaining rights.

I want the strike to end as soon as possible for the sake of the disabled who are suffering. As my colleagues have said, I believe it could have been settled by now if the provincial government had been willing to put a little more into the funding pot. The provincial government's share of public transit costs is low in comparison to that provided in other major cities in North America. I believe transportation for the disabled is a particular area where the government should be considering additional funding, because it claims to be devoted to equality for the disabled. Wheel-Trans is a step towards full equality for the

disabled but it is still a long way from providing full transportation access for the disabled.

Our party's refusal to let the bill go through in an hour or two yesterday is giving us a chance to talk about the inadequacies of the service today. It is something I want to bring to the government's attention. I also want to bring to the government's attention the fact that it should not expect the workers who serve the disabled to subsidize the service. When they are denied pension benefits and parity with TTC workers, that is exactly what they are being asked to do by the government.

I also consider it important to remind the government that this situation is an example of the result of the trend towards contracting out. If contracting out a service means saving only at the expense of the workers, it should be banned.

I also want to use this occasion to express my shock at the new government resorting to the tactics of the previous government in destroying collective bargaining. This bill "cuts off collective bargaining at the knees," as one worker said. Once an industry becomes accustomed to the idea that back-to-work legislation is the way of solving a problem, collective bargaining ceases.

I am sure some of the disabled workers who are suffering hardship are also members of unions. I am sure they will be concerned that their jobs will be threatened by contracting out and back-to-work legislation which will destroy the collective bargaining process. I am very disappointed to find that the first legislation debated in this new session is a message to all workers in the province that the new Liberal government is no different from the former Conservative one. When it comes to respect for free collective bargaining, a right which is guaranteed by our new Constitution, this government has been found wanting.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to add a few words, having had a chance to express myself fairly fully yesterday in the emergency debate.

Today we raised questions in question period trying to link the attitude of this government towards labour negotiations with a powerful group such as the Ontario Medical Association and in terms of dealing with a much weaker group, a small group of 185 transit workers here in Toronto. I was told there was no linkage there, there was no right to make that kind of comparison or to contrast the attitudes that indicate a class bias by this government in how it approaches these two groups.

In the answers we got, the government's attitudes came through very clearly. We had the

Premier stand up and say he was opposed to the principle of parity in general and that specifically in this case no legitimate arguments could be made that transit workers working with the disabled in Metro Toronto should receive the same kind of money and benefits as transit workers dealing with able-bodied people.

What a preposterous position and what a wonderful message to send to the arbitrators: "Do not move this group to parity. Do not provide it with the kind of justice that speakers from this party have been talking about as necessary." For any members who were in the House at the time, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) gave the history of Wheel-Trans and told us what a third-class system it used to be. Now it has finally reached the level of being a second-class system. The government knows this and yet it will not even accept the principle of parity. If it had done so, it would have found a solution to this with the few dollars it would have taken to do so rather than to take away the civil rights of these workers.

Why does the government use a 50-cent base for the arbitrator to work from? That is also prejudicing the arbitrator. The government knows there was an acceptance by management and by the negotiating committee of amounts much larger than that. In fact, a first-year contract could have been accepted. The government did not recognize that or give that message to the arbitrator. It did not say, "Start from square one and use your best judgement on things such as parity." No. The government has given out very particular messages now about how it wants these workers treated, and that is very different from how it wants the doctors treated in this province.

The government played on the heartstrings of those people who are concerned about the disabled. It may seem to be tough for us to stand up for workers and in opposition to the disabled, as has been portrayed by members of the Conservative Party to my right. I deal on a regular basis with advocate groups such as Action Awareness, the Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-help Tactics, Persons United for Self-Help in Ontario, the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped and their representatives, who have been fighting for an integrated transit system for the disabled for years. I talked with them yesterday; my office talked with them this morning. They do not support this legislation; they support the rights of their workers. As Beryl Potter put it to my staff this morning, "It is symbolic that in a second-class system you pay

your drivers and your workers second-class rates."

We want this government to recognize it is time we developed this into a first-class system. Where is the Liberal Party's progressive labour policy that it can bring in this kind of legislation without its House leader even knowing about it, spring it on us knowing we were not to sit today and expect us to pass it in an hour and a half? What kind of labour policy does the Liberal Party have in terms of weighing justice and the democratic rights of workers? What is its social policy? I have not heard one member over there yet talk about his vision of transportation for the disabled in this province, except to talk in negative terms about its not being supposed to be equal.

The Premier was saying the workers should not necessarily be paid the same amount. One would therefore presume that the rights of handicapped people should not necessarily be the same as those of the rest of us in terms of what they can expect for transportation. Should we all expect to have to wait for a week or to know a week in advance when we are going to go to a movie, when we want to go shopping or when we want to go a medical appointment? That is what they have to do now under the system that is out there. If you have epilepsy or a minor disability that does not make you wheelchair-bound, you are not likely even to get picked up at all. You are probably not going to be able to use the transit system proper, because you cannot get up and down the stairs in many of the subway stations in Toronto.

12:40 p.m.

Why are we not hearing from the government what its vision is? Why are we not hearing something positive about how the transportation system can be changed to make it first-class, world-class, etc.? We have heard none of that. All the government wants to do is victimize these workers; it is as clear as that. A tone has been set for this session that the government members may have thought would distance them from us, but what they have done is set a tone of confrontation which they will regret before the session is over.

Mr. Allen: I would like to take a few moments of the House's time to stand and oppose this bill. I want to do so because there are workers in Hamilton who are drivers of a similar transit system, the Disabled and Aged Regional Transit System, DARTS. Like the recently negotiating workers of this system in Toronto, they have been in the process of negotiations.

They have the same problems. They are about the same distance behind the public transit system employees' wages. They have no specific benefits in their employment package. They also have the problem that only about one third of them are full-time and the company takes advantage of part-time workers, in terms of the service that has to be provided, by escalating the time until it is almost full-time service.

They have been negotiating since January and have been very hopeful, in the light of the progress they thought was happening in Toronto, that perhaps their objectives would be secured. That is not likely to be the case now. The minister has to recognize that the moment he interferes in this fashion in a dispute such as this, at the same time he is prejudicing the negotiations of other working groups in other communities seeking similar objectives.

In the light of the Hamilton situation, it would be very dangerous to conclude that the handicapped of our city feel alienated or disaffected as a result of the attempts of their drivers to seek better conditions. They work closely together and they know how often the drivers go out of their way to help. They know how much assistance they get from their drivers and there is a bond between them that is unusually close. They recognize that their workers are not well done by at this time.

The United Disabled Consumers of Hamilton sent a wire to the drivers in Toronto supporting them in their undertaking and hoping they would be successful. Likewise, I talked with a very active member of the disabled community in Hamilton and found a great deal of sympathy for the situation of the drivers in Toronto. They were very strongly supportive of their strike and opposed the attempt by the Legislature to legislate them back to work.

I want to conclude by saying it is a very great irony in our society that people who are in service occupations, looking after the needs of people, are so often underpaid, undersupported, underrepresented and underpowered in their employment situation. The moment they attempt to redress or improve their circumstances, particularly in a circumstance such as this where a very vulnerable part of the community is affected, it is so easy for government and society at large to jump on them because they appear to be striking a vulnerable group.

What recourse do they have? Surely they have a right to the terms and benefits of employment, to a pension and security for their later years. Yet, as we know in Toronto and Hamilton, this

group of workers does not have these benefits. It is time for this Legislature to take a much more mature approach to the problem of that whole sector of employees in the service industries. No better time and no better opportunity have been presented to this government to turn that situation around and to begin to walk down a new road than the strike that is currently in progress. Instead of responding to the real issues that are there, the government attempts to suppress that strike by passing legislation to deprive workers of their rightful opportunities.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Let me comment briefly on the points that have been made. I will begin by reviewing for my colleagues on both sides the situation as it emerged yesterday. I want to be quite candid, because I hear what my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) says about the tone, and I understand that. I also understand the concerns of the opposition. It was not too long ago that I was on that side, and I and the government appreciate the opposition concerns.

The decision had been made to discuss and to have further mediation. After discussions with my officials shortly after noon, however, we decided that the possibilities of progress through further mediation were not good; in fact, they were very poor. In a discussion with the leader of the government, the decision was made that to allow the strike to drag on for a few more days while going through fruitless mediation was an inappropriate way for the government to show leadership. The determination was made—and we understood it was very late; it was some time after one o'clock—to move forward.

I am trying to explain the sequence of events. The House leader, who was quite candid with his colleagues in the other parties, at that point was asked, "Could we move forward with these matters?" He indicated that he would check, and calls were immediately placed. I want to assure my colleagues on the other side that the government did not try to do this in an underhanded way. It was a judgement call, made quite sincerely, that the mediation effort we had contemplated carrying forward would have little chance of success and we might as well acknowledge that.

Despite the suggestion by a couple of members, no one on this side has tried to ram any bill through. The bill received first reading yesterday. I was in the House. Unanimous consent was required and was requested by the government House leader to continue on to second reading. We all know what the standing orders say. The

House leader for the third party stood in his place and refused unanimous consent, as is his right and the right of any member.

Mr. Wildman: That is right. Exactly. It was improperly rammed through.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to tell my friend the member for Algoma that there was no complaining from this side. I went out and spoke to the press. I said the third party had made its choice and that I respected that. I resent suggestions that somehow it then becomes a government trying to ram a bill through. We are here today, we had not intended to be, but the government has made the judgement that this is a very important consideration.

As to some of the fundamentals of the bill, my friends, particularly on the Conservative side and especially the Labour critic for the Conservative Party, suggested on the one hand that we ought to have unfettered arbitration and on the other that we should speak to the arbitrator before matters get going and tell him something, although he never made that too clear. I am not sure he understands the difference between unfettered arbitration and speaking to the arbitrator.

12:50 p.m.

The issue of the 50 cents was raised by two members, the Labour critic for the Conservatives and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris). We have opted to have a respectable initial increase even during that 45-day period. It will be a handful of days more than 45, because it will be a couple of days before the arbitrator will be put in place. In effect, we have opted to have a respectable initial increase.

You will notice the wording of the bill makes it very clear that the arbitrator can build upon that. We did not want to have the kind of increase put up front that would in any way tie the arbitrator's hands from coming out with whatever creative solution the parties may put before the arbitrator and the arbitrator may choose to accept. Quite candidly, that is the decision the government has taken on this matter and I think it is a very defensible one.

The concern we have on this matter is that this is not exactly, in spite of what my friends in the third party have suggested throughout the speeches, a dispute between the government of Ontario and the workers of the Amalgamated Transit Union. First, it was All-Way Transportation Corp. with which ATU was bargaining. More important, while the funding mechanism is partially from the government of Ontario, I think my friends would want to acknowledge very

clearly that the funding mechanism is also from Metropolitan Toronto.

While there may be a suggestion that the government of Ontario simply ought to allow Metro to abrogate its responsibilities and provide all the money, I remind my friends in the third party that collective bargaining is a two-way street. In spite of the suggestion that \$200,000 or \$220,000 would automatically settle the dispute, it was the judgement of the government and it was certainly the view of the negotiating committee for Local 113 that the tentative agreement would settle it because they all recommended it and felt it would be settled.

It is simply the judgement of the government that the parties in the first instance would probably not be able to reach a further agreement, which would have cost more money, \$220,000 or whatever amount. Further, my friends suggest they have some magic knowledge that the agreement would have been approved. I am not certain they know that, because I know I do not know that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Have you talked to the union?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Yes.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What was the vote?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The vote was 89 to 52.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A little sweetener might have helped.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: A little sweetener might and a little sweetener might not. I think my friend would want to acknowledge that.

Let me deal with the suggestion that the government has not been involved or concerned. I reject that suggestion. First, the government was clearly involved enough that we were able on Friday last, exactly a week ago today, to effect a tentative agreement. That tentative agreement was reached after the involvement of the most senior officials of my ministry. It was reached after the involvement of this minister and my colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton). The tentative agreement was reached with the knowledge but not with the direct involvement—because we did not need it—of the Premier and other members of the cabinet.

We have been involved throughout and indeed the Premier was involved yesterday in deciding that, regrettably, this bill would have to go forward. To suggest this government has ignored its obligations is simply foolish. The facts of the matter do not support that suggestion. We managed to effect a tentative agreement, an

agreement that was, regrettably, rejected by the membership.

In closing, I will make one last comment on that subject. My friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) has left the impression that somehow we are being critical of the workers in the dispute for rejecting that agreement. I make no judgement at all. It is the democratic right of the 141 members who voted, including the 89 who voted no, to say to their negotiating committee, "You have got us a good agreement, but it is not good enough and we are not about to support it." In a previous existence, I have been known to vote no on collective agreements that were put forward to me.

The only comment I make is that it was the judgement of the government that, without undue hardship because of the length of time that would be necessary, we could not have effected a settlement, that the divisions between the parties were very substantial. Indeed, the vote last Sunday made that clear.

1 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Wrye's motion for second reading of Bill 2, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Barlow, Bossy, Bradley, Brandt, Callahan, Caplan, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cousens, Curling, Davis, Dean, Eakins, Elston, Eves, Ferraro, Gillies, Gordon, Guindon, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kerrio, Knight, Kwinter, Mancini, Marland, McCague, McFadden, McGuigan, McLean, McNeil, Miller, G. I., Morin, Munro;

Newman, Nixon, Offer, O'Neil, Partington, Pollock, Polsinelli, Reycraft, Riddell, Rowe, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Shymko, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Sweeney, Timbrell, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Ward, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Foulds, Grande, Grier, Johnston, R. F., Mackenzie, McClellan, Philip, Reville, Swart, Warner, Wildman.

Ayes 62; nays 16.

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved third reading of Bill 2, An Act respecting the Labour Disputes between All-Way Transportation Corporation (Wheel-Trans Division) and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union.

1:06 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Wrye's motion for third reading of Bill 2, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Barlow, Bossy, Bradley, Brandt, Callahan, Caplan, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cousens, Curling, Davis, Dean, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Eves, Ferraro, Gillies, Gordon, Guindon, Henderson, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter, Mancini, Marland, McCague, McFadden, McGuigan, McLean, Miller, G. I., Morin, Munro;

Newman, Nixon, Offer, O'Neil, Partington, Polsinelli, Reycraft, Riddell, Rowe, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Shymko, Smith, E. J., Sorbara, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Sweeney, Timbrell, Treleaven, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Ward, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Foulds, Grande, Grier, Johnston, R. F., Mackenzie, McClellan, Philip, Reville, Swart, Warner, Wildman.

Ayes 61; nays 16.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: His Honour is waiting to give royal assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed a certain bill to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Assistant Clerk: The following is the title of the bill to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 2, An Act respecting the Labour Disputes between All-Way Transportation Corporation (Wheel-Trans Division) and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to this bill.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament

Monday, April 28, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 28, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

PANIC BUTTONS

Mr. Treleaven: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In view of the unfortunate situation that occurred in my office and in yours this morning, it was discovered that the panic buttons had been removed from various desks and places, unbeknownst to us and probably unbeknownst to many other people. Upon further investigation, I discovered the panic buttons had never been hooked up, at least since last summer.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that you refer this matter to the new standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

Second, perhaps you would cause a memo to be sent to all members and their staffs to see: (a) whether their panic buttons have been removed unbeknownst to them and (b) whether the panic buttons are connected.

Last, perhaps at the end of question period, the members would like to go to their offices and test their panic buttons to see whether they are in operating order.

Mr. Speaker: I will accept the point of information from the honourable member and do my best to see that this matter is brought under control.

Mr. Ferraro: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: As some members of the House will know, my home-town hockey team, the Guelph Holody Platers, is in the final of the Ontario Hockey League against the Belleville Bulls. We are extremely proud of this. Indeed, we beat them seven to nothing yesterday.

The point of privilege is this: There is a nasty rumour going around that I bet \$5 against the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil). I know gambling is not allowed in the House and I want to dispel that rumour. If I were going to bet, it would be for at least \$10.

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of privilege.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I ask you to take this under advisement. It arises out of business on Friday last, when we asked a question of the acknowledged

key player in the doctors' negotiations. We feel our privileges were abused as a result—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I listened carefully and I cannot see where that is a point of privilege.

Mr. Harris: You have not listened to the fact that the minister refused to answer those questions in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Come to the point of privilege.

Mr. Harris: However, you will note from reading the newspapers over the weekend that he quickly left the Legislature, acknowledged his role and answered questions of the media as a lead negotiator in those negotiations.

I am asking you to take under advisement, as the Speaker of the Legislature, whether somebody who plays such a key role should not be obligated to answer questions in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of privilege. It is up to each member what he does outside the House. However, I appreciate that the member has it on the record now.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBER FOR YORK EAST

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Clerk had received from the chief election officer, and laid upon the table, the certificate of a by-election held on April 17, 1986:

Electoral district of York East—Christine Hart; Province of Ontario.

This is to certify that in view of a writ of election, dated March 6, 1986, issued by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario and addressed to Frances Mastoras, returning officer for the electoral district of York East, for the election of a member to represent the said electoral district of York East in the Legislative Assembly of the province, in the room of Robert G. Elgie, Esquire, who, since his election as representative of the said electoral district of York East, has resigned his seat, Christine Hart has been returned as duly elected as appears by the return of the said writ of election, which is now lodged of record in my office.

(Signed) Warren R. Bailie, chief election officer; Toronto, April 28, 1986.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Christine Hart, member-elect for the electoral district of York East, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take her seat.

Mr. Speaker: Let the honourable member take her seat.

Christine Hart, member-elect for the electoral district of York East, having taken the oath and subscribed the roll, took her seat.

Mr. Grossman: It is always a special day for all members of the assembly when a new member takes his or her seat in the House. Regardless of which side of the House we are on, it is a special day for us all. On behalf of my party, I should like to welcome the new minister for York East to the House.

Mr. McClellan: Promoted already.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Grossman: Did I say "minister"? It would not be for long anyway.

In any case, I do wish to welcome her and assure her that her time in the House will no doubt be less difficult, less controversial and less heated than she found the by-election itself. Although I hurt my knee playing basketball, it was certainly aggravated by walking the streets of York East. York East aggravated other parts of my body as well.

While we will fight the member as hard in the House as we fought in York East, there is no doubt her perseverance and intelligence will serve her well in this setting. We take this opportunity to welcome her here and to wish her well during the coming months.

Mr. Rae: The member for York East (Miss Hart) should enjoy this day because it is one of the few occasions on which everybody says nice things. That has been my experience, although I do not know about others. Perhaps she will be luckier than I have been.

In any event, as I did on election night, I want to congratulate the member for a very fine campaign and for her victory and that of her party in the by-election. I know she will be bringing a strong message, particularly about beer and wine in the corner store. I will be glad to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) so that the real views of the people of York East can be expressed to that minister and the government.

Seriously, I welcome the member. She will find, as I am sure we all have found, that for all the comments that are made about how difficult public life is, it has its unique rewards. However

long her career may be, and that is a matter for yet more partisan conjecture, I know she will enjoy it and will find that the rather bizarre camaraderie that occasionally extends across party lines will be extended to her as she joins in the life of this unique ship as we continue to float along for the benefit of the people of the province.

I extend my congratulations and welcome to the member. May her stay, however long or short, be an enjoyable one.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Unfortunately, I find myself disagreeing with my friend the leader of the New Democratic Party. I find that people on this side of the House are always saying nice things about everything. This perhaps speaks to his opposition mentality.

This is a very happy day for members of our party. All of us who have got to know the member for York East well welcome her as an esteemed and respected colleague. I am sure she will quickly familiarize herself with the rules of this unique institution and make an active and meaningful contribution.

As an interested observer of the York East by-election, I thought it was a very wholesome exercise. There was significant discussion of the issues. There were three extremely fine candidates running there. I would like to compliment Gina Brannan, who ran for the Conservative Party, and Gordon Crann, who ran for the New Democratic Party. In my view, these three people were a compliment to, and indeed uplifted, the democratic system and process. As members of this institution, we can be extremely proud of what transpired in York East. I take special delight in the results, but it was a great comment on the process we all serve and in which we labour together to try to build a better Ontario.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Wrye: As honourable members are no doubt aware, the Canadian Labour Congress has designated today as a national day of mourning for Canadian workers who have been killed or injured on the job. I commend the congress for this effort to draw into sharper focus the occupational health and safety challenge that faces all Canadians. While that challenge is always evident in Ontario, which has the greatest economic activity of any province in our country, it seems particularly marked now.

The total number of accident claims reported in Ontario in 1985 was more than 426,000, an increase of almost 10 per cent over 1984. The

total number of accidents for which lost time was compensated also increased by about 10 per cent. While there has been a marginal improvement in the first three months of 1986, the distressing trend of the past year has persisted, as lost-time claims have increased by five per cent over the first quarter of 1985.

This government is not unaware of the continuing need for determined vigilance when it comes to work-place health and safety. As Minister of Labour, I consider health and safety to be the most important area of public policy for which I am responsible.

In that regard, the government has taken and will continue to take important steps to help ensure that the province's work places are safe for the men and women who work in them. With the possible exception of the period in which the Occupational Health and Safety Act was drafted, debated, passed in this assembly and put into force, I doubt there has been a time in the life of our province where there has been so much positive government activity in the health and safety field.

Despite everybody's best efforts, however, there will continue to be instances in which the health of workers will be harmed and in which workers will be injured and perhaps even killed.

That is why this day is so important. It reminds all of us in this House and in this province of the lurking dangers of the work place and of the terrible toll those dangers can exact from workers, families and friends.

It brings home to all of us the perpetual need, day in and day out, year in and year out, to be ever-persistent in an unremitting effort to quell injury and disease in the work place.

The working men and women of Ontario have the fundamental right to be protected from any harm that might come to them at work. This minister and this government are dedicated to playing an instrumental part in assuring that protection.

I presume the critics will want to say a word on this important day. Afterwards, I ask all of the members to rise and join me in a minute of silent tribute to those workers who have died as a result of work-place accidents and work-place disease.

Mr. Gillies: On behalf of the official opposition, I want to join with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) in congratulating and recognizing the efforts of the Canadian Labour Congress to organize this important tribute to the workers of this province who have died as a result of work-related injury or disease.

We want to recognize the efforts of the minister and former ministers. I think particularly of our former colleague Russell Ramsay, who fought to bring about improvements to occupational health and safety and to workers' compensation benefits for the survivors of workers killed on the job. Members are aware of the improvements that were made to survivors' benefits, the lump sum award and continuing benefit related to the age of the surviving spouse.

While these steps were important, nothing can replace the loss of a loved one to a work-place injury. It is our responsibility as legislators to ensure that everything possible is being done to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents in the work place.

All workers in the province have the right to expect that every possible measure will be taken to protect them and their physical wellbeing from occupational health hazards. We must pay increased attention to accident prevention and refine the system, to bring about the best mix of controls and incentives for workers and their employers.

I do not doubt the sincerity of the minister in his desire to improve the overall health and safety performance in the work place. However, we view with alarm the increase in injuries over the past year, the highest number of work-place injuries in this province since 1974. The percentage of workers who are off the job from accidents is also up, representing a 20 per cent jump from two years ago.

Approximately 200 workers in this province die every year in a work-related incident. We cannot allow this to continue. The vast majority of these fatalities and occupational injuries are preventable and, as such, cannot be justified or tolerated. As legislators, we must not be satisfied until we develop a strategy that will drastically reduce and, I hope, some day perhaps even eliminate work-place accidents.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Rae: Every year 1,000 people in Canada die on the job. Thousands are disabled permanently, hundreds of thousands are injured and thousands more die from cancer, lung disease and other ailments that are caused by exposure to toxic substances.

The minister and the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) have both mentioned the latest and most horrifying statistics with respect to the number of accidents in Ontario. Even a neutral political observer would agree that there must be something terribly wrong with the structure of government, the responsibilities of employers

and current policies when there are 426,000 accidents in 1985, which is a 10 per cent increase over 1984.

My party's critic the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), who again today is discussing these questions with citizens across the province, has been in many respects the conscience of this Legislature with respect to this issue. No one has fought harder or worked harder. I know the report he is now drafting, following the number of hearings that have been held, will be a landmark document in terms of the kinds of changes that need to happen to make sure that we get a safe working environment in this province and that one day we will take pride in the fact that we do not need to have a moment's silence for people killed that year because no one will have died on the job that year.

I do not think any of us can rest satisfied until that has happened. We are an industrial province. We are what has been called the manufacturing heartland. But there is something terribly wrong in the way in which we organize ourselves in the work place if this level of death is taking place and these numbers of people are getting killed. Something has to change; something has to give.

I do not want to inject too partisan a note into these discussions, but I do want to say that the structures and the policies are not working; no government can take pride in its record or its policies as long as we have the numbers of accidents and deaths we so tragically have in this province.

On that note, it would be appropriate if we all took a moment to reflect on what has happened, and what is happening today, and honoured those who have died by keeping our silence for a bit of time.

The House observed one minute's silence.

WINE PRICING

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I wish to inform the House of a historic agreement regarding wine prices. This agreement arose out of concerted decisions between the Ontario government, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, Ontario and United States wine producers and the federal governments of Canada and the US. This agreement settles long-standing concerns of Ontario grape growers and wine producers who sought a fair opportunity in the Ontario marketplace.

The agreement is based on a new pricing formula which requires the percentage tax markup on domestic and imported wines to be reduced and the imposition of a flat markup. This

means that effective May 26, 1986, the markup on Ontario wines will be reduced from 58 per cent to one per cent. The markup on imported wines will be reduced from 123 per cent to 66 per cent. These reductions will be replaced by a uniform markup of \$13.50 per case of 12 750-millilitre bottles.

Overall, the effect of the new pricing formula will be to lower the prices of Ontario and higher-priced imported wines, while lower-priced imported wines will be increased in price.

A number of factors have led to this new pricing formula. As a result of concerns it had with marketing practices in a number of Canadian provinces, the US government in 1984 passed the Wine Equity Act, under which Canada has been designated as a country with trading practices said to be unfair to US wine producers. The Ontario wine industry has shown that the European Community subsidizes its wine industry in the range of \$1.50 to \$2.50 per bottle, creating an unfair competitive advantage which has caused difficulties for the Ontario wine industry in holding its share of the market.

As a result of these and other considerations, especially the Ontario government's desire to implement generally fairer and more competitive marketplace practices, discussions took place initially between representatives of the Ontario and American wine industries and, subsequently, among the governments of Ontario, Canada and the United States. This led to agreement on how Ontario would respond to the points raised by US wine producers.

This agreement, which was based in part on an earlier industry agreement called "the Niagara accord," included the adoption of the new pricing formula.

I should also point out that concurrence was reached on this agreement with Canadian federal trade representatives at meetings held in Ottawa on March 13 and 14, 1986.

All this has enabled Ontario to address the question raised by the US and at the same time to address the concerns of the Ontario wine industry.

We believe all our commitments in respect to the agreement are in keeping with our obligations under the 1979 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Ontario government is satisfied that the new pricing formula will make Ontario wine a more attractive product to purchase, thereby leading to an improved market share for Ontario grape growers and wine producers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Premier, who is rapidly catapulting towards a severe disruption in the health care system, perhaps as early as 12 days from today. Since the Canada Health Act does not require him to take any action for one full year yet, and given the negotiations, would the Premier not agree that the wisest thing to do would be to replace the series of meetings that are now being held once or twice a week, working to an early deadline, and instead to say to the doctors in the province that he will take the balance of 1986 to try to work out a satisfactory agreement with them?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I realize the Tory approach is always to delay, procrastinate and take time. Let us take as an example the Niagara accord, which my colleague just announced. The Tories had been fooling around with it for about eight years and could not come to a conclusion. We believe decisions have to be made, and we believe in full consultation.

The honourable member has been running around the province suggesting there has been no consultation, and I say with great respect that that is patent nonsense. My colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has had a number of meetings. Our position is very clear. As long as we think we may be able to come to an accommodation, we are prepared to do that, but we are going to end extra billing. There are ways to do that, but we do not think the member's proposal at this moment is very constructive; there is nothing new there. All we would do under his idea would be to let it go, pass the cutoff date and lose \$150 million at that point.

Mr. Grossman: I am not suggesting the Premier go by the cutoff date. My request to him is a simple one. If he believes in consultation, as he likes to say he does—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We are going to fill in the seats around the member first, so it will not look empty.

Mr. Grossman: I will wait until the chief negotiator has finished giving advice.

If he believes in consultation, as he says he does, and if he puts peace in the health care system and the patients of this province ahead of a political victory, as he should, why does he not protect his \$53 million and the patients by simply saying to the doctors, "Instead of a series of rushed meetings this week and next week before May 7, why do we not negotiate till the end of

1986," still leaving him enough time to implement the legislation if he so chooses?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member says it is going to happen, and I gather there is a rally planned for May 7, but that is by no means a cutoff date for any discussions. I do not know where the member got that idea. We will continue to discuss this matter. I appreciate his taking the Neville Chamberlain approach. He thinks that there will be peace in our time and that if we delay this, something magic will happen next fall or next spring. There is no evidence to suggest that. We are most anxious to resolve this problem, but we are not persuaded that his idea of today is going to be constructive in doing that.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: Just out of curiosity, what is the Premier's timetable? We hear what he says here in the House today in answer to certain questions and then outside he says something slightly different. I gather last week he said it was conceivable that the discussions could go on or that the legislation could be delayed at least until the fall.

Since the Premier seems to be in a mood today where he is saying how decisive he is going to be—by contrast with other days and other weeks—can he tell us precisely what his time frame today is for the government and precisely how much longer patients in this province are going to have to shell out \$1 million a week in extra bills which they do not want to pay, which in many cases they cannot afford to pay and which, in the view of the majority, they should not have to pay?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My time frame now is the same as it was last week, the week before and the week before that. Let me be precise. I am not in a position to give the honourable member a precise date. I am not prepared to stand here and say it is May 6, May 17 or whatever. But I am saying that as long as we feel meaningful negotiations are going on in good faith and there is a possibility of a negotiated settlement here, we will continue to discuss that. We will not discuss it for ever. I have told the member before that we would like to see a resolution of the matter this spring. I would like to see it tomorrow ideally, but I cannot suggest that would happen. I would like to see a resolution of this matter this spring. That is the line towards which we are working. I am not in a position to give the member a precise date, as I know he would like.

Mr. Grossman: If that is the case, then I ask the Premier whether he would be willing, to

satisfy the legitimate concerns of the patients of Ontario, to simply say to the OMA that if it is prepared now to commit to meaningful and real negotiations with his government through to early fall—to use the words of his chief negotiator—he would commit to the OMA not to bring forward the legislation until early fall?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My friend insults the OMA by suggesting it has not been involved in meaningful discussions thus far. The member cannot spring forward and fall back at the same time. We are hearing so many strange signals from those people. I am very sorry about the member's recent injury, and I hope he is feeling better today; but when he was away, does he know what his colleague was saying in this House and otherwise? I gather he has changed his position a couple of times on it over the weekend. That is not particularly constructive in these discussions, which are meaningful. There are some differences of opinion, and they are serious differences of opinion. We are hoping for a resolution, and if he has any good ideas today or tomorrow, even if they change over the next couple of days, we will be very happy to take them into account.

Mr. Grossman: If we do, we will send them to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott); maybe he will share them with the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), or maybe he will not.

I have another question for the Premier. On these negotiations, can the Premier confirm that he has offered the doctors of this province a substantial portion of the \$53-million refund he is so jealously protecting from Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As the member knows, we have taken the position that we are not discussing in public the details of any discussion with the OMA. When the OMA wrestled the member to the ceiling more than four years ago, he is the one who said that one should never negotiate in this House. That was constructive advice.

We are searching for creative proposals and suggestions, and the doctors may have ideas on how to work with these things. We believe there are a number of design flaws in the system that we have to work on now and in the long term. We want to work with the doctors in that regard. I can tell the member I am aware of what he has read. Those discussions have not been made public by anyone in this government.

Mr. Grossman: Let us try to clarify this bungled negotiation and whether the Premier has given away the \$53 million. I refer him to the words of his chief negotiator, the Attorney

General, when he said last Friday, "If you have seen the 10-point program you will report what it says and you will recognize that it says nothing about money." Let me now read from point 2 of the government's proposals put to the OMA a week or so ago: "The government, with a substantial proportion of the recoveries from the annual federal holdback of \$53 million, proposes establishing a fund for supplementary payments to designated Ontario physicians, with the OMA and the government determining the criteria for payment from this fund."

In view of that offer, which presumably was made on his behalf to the OMA, is the Premier now prepared to clarify his initial response and acknowledge that he has offered to give away "a substantial proportion of the \$53-million hold-back"?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Is the member criticizing me for giving away the store? Is that his position right now? I find this absolutely incredible. I have said in the past and the minister has said in the past that rewarding excellence is something this government believes in. There are possible ways to do that with respect to the OMA. To the best of my knowledge, specific amounts were not discussed, but the minister may be able to add to this. I find the line of questioning strange, to say the least. The member is taking a different position from what he has said in the past and every day he takes a new position.

Mr. Rae: It is fair to say that what is on the table is an open secret. Can the Premier explain why the government was so determined to make a very large financial offer to the OMA, when there was no mention at any point in the throne speech or during the whole discussion of health care about doctors' incomes being one of the underfunded problems in the health care system? In all the OMA ads I have heard on commercial radio, I do not recall having heard a doctor say, "I am not getting enough money and that is why I am mad at the government." If that is the case, why is the government trying to throw money at doctors as a solution to the problem?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not in a position to comment on the specifics that have been discussed. I read the same things that the member reads. To be helpful, they are wildly inaccurate. In this business there is a lot of speculation daily about what I do, what the leader of the third party does and what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) does. That is part of the business we all are involved in. In these discussions we have seen a minister who has stayed steadily on course

and has kept constructive discussions, and we are going to find a resolution.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier has referred to his steady-as-she-goes former Minister of Health. If he will acknowledge that the Attorney General was wrong and that this document does reflect his offer to give away a substantial proportion of the \$53 million, will he invite his Minister of Health to stop misleading the public by suggesting, as he did in his comments to the standing committee on social development, "The recovery of the penalties will build a 300-bed acute care hospital or provide 500 more chronic care beds or pay the cost of running five trauma units for the seriously injured"? Will he tell his Minister of Health that he has given away his right to put this case to the public because he offered a substantial proportion of the \$53 million to the OMA?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to the member, the facts in the newspaper from which he is reading do not accurately reflect what has gone on. If the member has a question, all he has to do is ask the minister, who is sitting here. Why not ask him what is going on? He will be very happy to tell the member.

2:40 p.m.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Today the minister took great pride in talking about so much positive government activity in the health and safety field. On Friday I was in Timmins and once again heard of the extraordinary evidence with respect to cancer and to conditions in the gold mines in Ontario and the alarming new evidence of a virtual cancer epidemic in many of our mining communities.

Given that fact and the fact the government has had a report since 1983, pointing out that workers who have been in the gold mines and uranium mines have a far higher incidence of stomach cancer than the general population and that number is growing and growing virtually daily—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Rae: —can the minister explain why to date the Workers' Compensation Board has not recognized a single case of stomach cancer as being connected to working in the mines when the evidence is literally overwhelming that it must be the case?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The member should know the Workers' Compensation Board has not yet decided that the evidence is overwhelming that the causal link is there. That is part of the second

phase of the Muller study. There is an amount of research now being done by the board for the United Steelworkers to get numbers going back a very long way. We continue to look at these matters, but as I am sure the member would wish to acknowledge, the relationship between gold mining and cancers, the kind the member has raised, has perhaps not been established yet. These matters may carry forward to appeal and can be referred to the new Industrial Disease Standards Panel.

Mr. Rae: The evidence with respect to stomach cancer is overwhelming. Since the minister has struck out on that and there are people and families today that are not receiving compensation and should be, can he explain why, when the government has had studies with respect to the gold mines since the 1960s, and again in 1976, 1978, 1983 and 1984, clearly establishing that rates of lung cancer, specifically for gold miners, are catastrophically higher than expected in Timmins and Kirkland Lake, and those people and their families are still not being compensated—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Rae: —there has not yet been a lung cancer case recognized by the Workers' Compensation Board with respect to gold miners?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I think the member would wish to wait the additional couple of months until phase 2 of the Muller study is completed; because as the member knows, the 1983 study, which he so glibly points out has established all of this relationship, did nothing of the kind. That is what phase 2 of the Muller study is about. I wish and hope the member would be willing to wait the additional period of time until the phase 2 report is out.

If there is that kind of relationship, if it is such that workers' compensation benefits ought to be paid to any or all of those miners in the gold mines, the uranium mines or the mixed ore mines, then in this government's opinion, not only ought compensation to be paid but also it will be paid. Let us wait until the studies, which will definitely establish the relationship one way or another, are released.

Mr. Rae: There is a pile of studies that have been sponsored by the Ministry of Labour right up to this ceiling, and still this government will not act when it comes to an issue as basic as what is happening to the health and safety of miners in this province. Those are the facts.

The minister will be aware, since he is so acquainted with all of the different reports, that in

the 1978-79 mortality study done for the federal Department of National Health and Welfare, it says, "Large excess lung cancer mortality among males in Kirkland Lake and Timmins was not expected. Other components of the air in underground mines which may contribute to the risk of lung cancer include arsenic, diesel fumes, thoron and its daughter products." The ministry has known about that with respect to thoron and its daughter products since 1960.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Rae: With respect to arsenic, can the minister explain why, when as recently as March 1986 arsenic was finally designated as a designated substance and when the regulations were published, mines were exempt from this particular regulation?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am aware of exactly the point the member makes. Frankly, the decision was made to exempt mines. It is a decision which we are looking at and, as we will with—

Mr. Rae: The minister made that decision.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I understand the point my friend makes, but the tying in of the relationship has actually followed designating that regulation. Not only with arsenic but in any other area, this government is going to continue on an ongoing basis to review not only those substances which it is in the process of designating, but even those substances and the exposure levels which are now in place. We are not afraid to go back to take a second look. If changes are appropriate, they will be made.

Mr. Rae: It is hard to know what one can say about a minister who publishes a regulation on March 27, 1986, and then says he is looking at it again.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to free trade. No doubt he will know from reading the papers that the Senate finance committee has approved the fast-track talks on bilateral free trade by the overwhelming vote of 10 to 10. Can the minister give us the categorical assurance of his government that, in the event the auto pact decreed between Canada and the United States is a subject of those negotiations in any way, Ontario will urge the federal government to withdraw from the talks?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: We have always made it very strong that we do not believe the auto pact

should be one of the things that is placed on the table.

Mr. Rae: That is not quite what I asked. I would like to ask him specifically about this since he knows what the position is.

The position of the federal government now, stated very clearly by Mr. Mulroney, and the position of the United States government is that there are no preconditions. Given that harsh fact, what now are the position and response of the government of Ontario? The government of Canada has said everything is up for sale and everything is on the table. Now that is known, what is the minister's position with respect to the auto pact?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Our position is the same as it has been in the past, that is, that the auto pact should not be put on the table.

Mr. Brandt: Can the minister indicate whether he has conveyed his concerns about the auto pact to his federal counterparts? If so, what has he said to the Prime Minister of this country with respect to that concern and any other concerns covering other industries that he may have some suspicion could be affected negatively by free trade? Will the minister let us in at this time on what he has discussed with the federal government?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Not only the matter concerning the auto trade but all the other issues about which we are worried have been expressed to the federal government.

Mr. Rae: Let me try again.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: If the auto pact is the subject of negotiations, what is the minister going to do then?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: That is hypothetical. We would have to deal with it when it happens.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: I am trying. I want to wait until it dies down.

My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology as well. Last Thursday in the House, with reference to the same issue of free trade, the minister stated, "My position is the same as the Premier's." I am still trying to find out what that position is, but it is the same as the Premier's.

2:50 p.m.

If this is the case, can the minister indicate how, in a recent speech he delivered to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, he was an

enthusiastic supporter of free trade? He indicated many of the opportunities that would present themselves to this province if there was freer trade between ourselves and our neighbours to the south. At the same time, the Premier has mentioned again and again that up to 300,000 jobs could be lost in this province if we had a free trade agreement.

Which position is the government taking?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Perhaps the member should have checked the speech closely. He mentioned it last Thursday as the speech I gave in Washington. I have not been in Washington for approximately 10 years.

Mr. Gillies: He did not say that. He said the chamber of commerce right here.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: He did say that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: When I spoke to the chamber of commerce, I was for increased trade with the United States. We are all in agreement that we want increased trade with the US.

Mr. Brandt: I have the minister's speech and it was to the chamber of commerce. I was incorrect and I apologize for stating the speech was given in Washington.

Mr. Timbrell: You said the chamber.

Mr. Brandt: We are speaking of the comments I made last Thursday. The minister is correct that I indicated he gave the speech in Washington. I have the speech here and it was not delivered in Washington. We have that cleared up.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary question?

Mr. Brandt: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The minister says in his speech: "I believe that two-way trade is vital in our strategies to reshape, rebuild and rejuvenate our industries. Together as economic partners"—the reference must be to the United States—"we can get back into fighting form."

Will the minister once and for all clarify where he stands and where his Premier stands? Frankly, I do not know where they stand.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Just as you and I are for increased trade with the United States, all of us want increased trade with that country.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Port Arthur is being very reasonable and is waiting to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister outline clearly for the House the items his government has told

the federal government cannot be on the negotiating table?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe where we stand on the subject of free trade and the topics we feel should not be on the table are a matter of public record.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Premier relating to the massive downsizing and permanent layoffs announced by Algoma Steel last week, which could result in a 25 per cent unemployment rate in Sault Ste. Marie within a year. Is he going to take action to maintain the steel jobs we now have in the Sault and stimulate new economic activity in that area, or is he going to adopt the federal Conservative approach of providing retraining and relocation so that workers from northern Ontario can move to southern Ontario? What is the government's policy? Is it moving jobs to the people or moving people to the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are very concerned about the economic vitality of northern Ontario. As the honourable member knows, this is not the only problem there that has been faced for some time. This government is spending a great deal of time canvassing its options in that regard. As the member says, our responsibility is to widen the economic base. It is something we are very concerned about. We are doing an inventory of every single option we have available to us to bring a co-ordinated policy to that problem. I understand there will be discussion of this issue in the emergency debate the member is proposing this afternoon. I know the ministers are very well prepared to discuss some of these options and initiatives with him and will welcome his views.

Mr. Foulds: If, as he indicated in his answer to my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie, the Premier realizes Algoma Steel's layoffs are part of a concerted attack on the economic capability of northern Ontario, particularly in the manufacturing sector, can he tell us why Canadian Pacific is allowed to get away with its withdrawal of commitment and capital in Algoma Steel and in Great Lakes Forest Products in Thunder Bay? What specific steps will he take? Will he bring in legislation to impose a one-year moratorium on the plant closure at Thunder Bay, as was requested by the union, since he was so ready to bring in legislation last week to force workers back to work?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not sure I see this matter in the same—may I use the word "conspiratorial"?—terms in which my honourable

colleague opposite sees it. These are two extremely difficult situations at the moment. The ministries have been involved from the beginning. The waferboard plant in the member's home town is a serious one. The negotiations broke off this weekend. We did have a labour negotiator—

Mr. Foulds: Robert Joyce.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Joyce was there. We stand ready and willing to provide any other assistance we can by way of an arbitrator or whatever.

The member will be aware that there is a fundamental difference of opinion between union and management over financial matters. It might be constructive to have an objective view of the situation. I know the management is pushing for certain concessions to try to make that operation competitive. In a way, it is a labour-management situation at present, but at the same time it speaks to some general competitive problems throughout northern Ontario.

These matters are of enormous concern to this administration. As the member and his many colleagues who have brought this to our attention before say, this is not an isolated thing. There are major changes going on in the mining business, the forestry industry, the steel business and others. It is part of our initiatives with respect to the federal government for changes in respect to steel imports into the country and many things. I assure the member—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: I am sure the Premier is aware that layoffs across the province in the early months of this year are up by 65 per cent from the same period last year, but in Sault Ste. Marie they are up by 450 per cent. We take some comfort in the fact that the Premier is looking at options, but could he tell the House his immediate plans to help in the economic adjustment and improvement of that community?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is absolutely right in his figures. He will be aware at the same time that in the last year 173,000 net new jobs have been created in the province. That is no consolation to the people of Sault Ste. Marie, as I am aware, but it speaks to some of the problems we were talking about earlier. I have asked the ministers and the ministries to canvass every single option we have with respect to Sault Ste. Marie. I cannot tell the member there is one dramatic thing that is going to put a Toyota plant

into Sault Ste. Marie, although I would like to see it if we could do it.

We are going to work with Algoma, as we have been doing. The ministers are going this week and there is a committee of deputy ministers going next week. I have asked the ministers to look at how they can contribute, however small the contribution, to try to broaden the economic base of Sault Ste. Marie. It is a very worrisome situation, to which I say to the member in all candour I do not have an easy, instant solution.

TOURISM COMMERCIAL

Mr. Rowe: My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Can the minister confirm that the latest tourism TV commercial for his ministry was filmed indoors with a man-made lake, an artificial waterfall and an artificial general store?

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, we have a new agency in place in this province. I do not know where they were filmed.

[Failure of sound system]

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rowe: I thank the minister for that artificial answer.

In view of the fact that there are more than 200,000 natural lakes in Ontario and perhaps 1,000 or more functioning general stores that are real, can the minister explain why he would allow such a decision and why most of the footage was shot on a holiday Easter weekend, probably at double time and a half? If this is true, it is not only Ontario that is "incredible" as the minister's new TV ad says; I suggest it is the minister who is incredible in wasting taxpayers' money.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, let me tell the honorable member that the agency is continuing to film, even—

[Failure of sound system]

Mr. Harris: On a point of technicality, Mr. Speaker: The microphone did not appear to be working. I do not know why Hansard would be prejudging and not answering, as right as they might be.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I noted it was not working, and I hope it has been recorded somehow.

3 p.m.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Swart: My question is for the Premier. He was quoted by the Canadian Press and other

media last Saturday as saying his provincial government "does not have control over gasoline prices. They are a federal matter." I am amazed how he could have said that and meant it seriously.

Has the Premier forgotten that the House passed legislation in July 1975 to control the price of gasoline, both wholesale and retail, and that in debate it dealt with the issue of constitutional authority? All parties, including his party, agreed the province could exercise such power. Can he tell us where he got his current legal interpretation that he cannot exercise such power to control the price of gasoline?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am going by memory, but my mind is not as swift now as it was 10 years ago. I thought it was with respect to the Isbister report on the freeze on prices coming down the pipe for a 90-day period just prior to an election. Am I right?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That is it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think that was it. The honourable member will recall we were heading up to an election or something like that, and the former government wanted to make a statement about the whole matter.

Mr. Speaker, may I refer this question to my friend the minister responsible? He may be able to add to this.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am delighted to respond. The honourable member may know that legislation is no longer on the books. There is no question that if we as a body wanted to institute such legislation, we could. But I should tell him that in provinces such as Nova Scotia, where they have regulated gas prices, they are paying more than we are paying in Ontario.

Mr. Swart: Now the minister is admitting the Premier made a misstatement of fact when he said the province does not have the power to control retail prices.

Will the minister admit the absolute futility and ineffectiveness of everything that he and this government have done about gas prices to date? The minister will recall he stated publicly last week that the oil companies should bring gas prices across the rest of Ontario down to the 37 cents that was listed in Toronto at the time. Instead of doing that, two days later the oil companies took the 37-cent price up to that of the rest of the province, 41 or 42 cents per litre. That is real performance on his part.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Swart: I have a supplementary. If the minister has any sincerity about bringing gas prices down and protecting the consumer, why does he not stop posturing, quit passing the buck and actually implement legislation, which he now says he has the power to do, and use it to bring the price of gasoline down?

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will get to the throne speech some time.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: As usual, the member confuses some of the issues. I am saying that right now there is no legislation in Ontario that can control the price of gasoline.

An hon. member: Then bring it in.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We could bring it in if there were a great cause to do it.

I should also tell the member that, if he will recall, about a month ago I predicted the price of fuel in Ontario would be 37 or 38 cents by the end of April or the beginning of May. This morning, if he drove anywhere in Toronto, he would have seen prices at 36.9 cents.

I am very concerned about the price of fuel. I have been working with the oil companies, and we are continuing to monitor it.

Mr. Baetz: In view of the fact that the minister is still hanging on to his empty and vague promise of some weeks ago that by tonight or tomorrow the gas prices would be 36 cents a litre, how can he explain that in Ottawa-Carleton they were paying 48 cents a litre? And what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The price of fuel is declining, and I am not happy with the state of the price of fuel. I am working with the oil companies. The Premier has made a statement that I agree with completely. The statement of Shell Canada that it will not pass along savings is totally unacceptable. However, the honourable member has to understand that we are working on it and that the price of fuel is coming down. I am not happy with where it is, but it is coming down in Ottawa as well.

LES DROITS DES FRANCOPHONES

M. Guindon: J'ai une question pour le ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones. Je veux savoir ce que le ministre fait, en ce moment, pour garantir à la majorité francophone de Kapuskasing, ses droits?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je veux rassurer le député de Cornwall que je suis très au courant de la situation à Kapuskasing. J'ai écrit, la semaine dernière, au maire et aux membres du Conseil

municipal et je dois l'assurer que mercredi prochain, lors de leur réunion, ils prendront une décision, une décision du Conseil et non pas du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones.

Mr. Guindon: I have a supplementary question for the minister responsible for francophone affairs and Minister of Municipal Affairs. With the present confusion in Kapuskasing concerning the ability of a municipal council to designate a community officially bilingual, what is the minister doing to clarify this matter?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: At present, the Municipal Act gives councils or municipalities the right to be serviced in French or in English. That is very clear and simple; it is in section 108 of the Municipal Act. Some 31 municipalities in this province have declared themselves officially bilingual, and Kapuskasing can do the very same thing.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Ramsay: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister is well aware of the hard times that agriculture is suffering. Symptomatic of that, a good example would be the Depression-era prices we are receiving for wheat right now. But those commodities in Ontario that are surviving, staying barely afloat, are those that are supply-managed.

Now we have free trade talks beginning, and as the minister knows, everything is on the table; there are no preconditions. Is the minister prepared to allow supply-managed commodities to go the way of everything else that seems to be going with these fast-track talks?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This ministry has a committee established, working in conjunction with a national body, to make a study of each sector of our agriculture industry that could be impacted detrimentally by free trade. We are going to know exactly where the benefits and the costs are going to be if we enter into free trade discussions. If it appears the costs are going to exceed the benefits, such as losing supply management, then we will be there at the bargaining table, through our Premier (Mr. Peterson), telling Mr. Mulroney what impact this is going to have not only on Ontario but also throughout this whole country. We will be there and we will make sure we protect the agriculture industry.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Ramsay: I am very glad to know the minister will be there. I am not sure the invitation has been extended; let us hope it is.

The minister is well aware that especially these supply-managed commodities in Ontario are the very ones for which the United States has the capacity to replace all our production. It is not a matter of being hurt or of what the cost is; we are talking about total replacement of that production in Ontario. What are we doing to prevent that replacement of this industry in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The simple answer would be that we are not going to lose our supply management programs because of free trade negotiations. We are going to be there to protect a program that has prevented the chaos they have in the US, where they have to sell a million dairy cattle and then buy back 400 million pounds of beef. What kind of chaotic situation is that in the US? We do not want that here in Ontario, and we are not going to get it.

We will be there and we will fight for the agricultural industry. It is not only this minister who is working on it but also various consultants, as the honourable member may have noticed. He has probably read in the paper that William Doyle, a former assistant deputy minister, said that if we do lose supply management in chicken, it will be the end of the chicken industry in this province. We are not going to let that happen.

Mr. Stevenson: We, along with the farmers in Grey county, know the minister will be there talking. They listened to him for two hours not too long ago, but from what I have heard, they still do not know exactly what his party's views are on free trade. Can the minister clarify just where he stands today?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am most interested in having that comment come from that critic. There was an article in the Windsor Star just the other day, talking about the member for Durham-York. The article said:

"With more than 10 months of wound-licking under his belt, Stevenson clearly had the gloves on and wanted to score points for his languishing party. Instead, he came across as punch-drunk, bitter and a poor alternative to Riddell and his still-popular Liberal colleagues."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have listened very carefully. Is the minister going to answer the question or not?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I simply repeat what I have already said. This ministry is responsible for knowing what impact free trade will have on each and every sector of the agricultural industry. When our committee has completed its report, it will convey that to the Premier, who will be

standing up for agriculture when free trade negotiations begin. We will not stand by and see free trade take away those programs that have meant so much to our farmers in this province. We will defend our agricultural industry, the supply management programs and all the other good programs we have for agriculture. We will not trade them away.

PROCESSING PLANT

Mr. Stevenson: We will see what the Minister of Agriculture and Food has to say here. Three and a half months ago, the federal government gave its approval to give \$1.5 million to the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative to establish a multiproduct processing business, including tomato paste. Has the minister finally ended his indecision on its request to the Ontario government for \$1 million?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It is not indecision on the part of this minister. We want to know whether the banks will stand behind it for the remaining \$2 million that it has to put in to make this plant fly. The federal Minister of Agriculture and I have discussed this matter a number of times. We are waiting for the federal minister to make a decision on whether he has—

Mr. Stevenson: What a pile of crap. How times change.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Wait. Just listen. It is not.

We are waiting for the federal minister to make a decision on whether he has \$1.5 million to sink into that program. When he tells us he has the \$1.5 million, then I will make my move. He is also wondering whether the banks are going to support Topaz for the other \$2 million the company must have to make the plant go.

Mr. Stevenson: The minister should read some of the press releases of the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) from a few months ago.

It is very clear the federal minister has made a decision, the banks are ready to go and this minister has been dragging his feet. In fact, part of his own ministry has been pressing the company to get its processing licence and it cannot because the minister has not made a decision.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat for a moment.

I should remind the House that under standing order 19(a) all members should rise and address the chair. Rather than pointing back and forth at each other, would you mind pointing to me?

Mr. Stevenson: I will be glad to direct my comments to you, Mr. Speaker, or to anybody else in this House, if I thought anyone could get through to the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Do I take it you do not have a supplementary?

Mr. Stevenson: I will place my supplementary.

It is planting season. The shareholders, the bank and everybody else are waiting on the minister's decision. Why has the minister put this group into such a time crisis by delaying his own decision?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: If the honourable member has a pipeline to my federal counterpart, I suggest that as soon as he gets out of this question period, he jump on the line, phone my federal counterpart and tell him to let me know if he has the \$1.5 million to put into the program.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Some members are wasting time for other members.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. In view of the great wealth that Algoma Steel Corp. has taken out of the Wawa area for many years, the high productivity of the workers in the Algoma Ore division mine and the fact that there are 25 years of iron ore reserves left in the Wawa area, and considering the responsibility of the company to that community, does the minister agree that Algoma Steel must make a clear commitment to the community of Wawa and must not cut production at Algoma Ore division any further until the company has closed out its operations at the Tilden mine in Michigan?

Mr. Davis: Page 34. There is the minister's answer.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: No.

I met with the president of Algoma Steel Corp. with regard to the Wawa situation. We are meeting with that company and its people, as well as Algoma Central Railway, next week. We will have to look at the costs. As a government, we will do our best with the railway and the company to try to keep that mine going in its present state. I will be meeting with people in Wawa this week. I will stop there on Wednesday and meet with the union and the mayor. My ministry will put one of our economists in there right away to work with the area to try to find a solution.

3:20 p.m.

Pour essayer d'améliorer la situation à Wawa, cette semaine, on va envoyer un de nos employés, un économiste pour travailler avec le syndicat et la compagnie pour tenir cette mine en activité jusqu'à ce qu'on ait une solution.

At the same time, I know there are other mining companies in the area that are very close to a production decision. We are working with them also. Perhaps we will go beyond that. I will look to my own program on mining to accelerate a decision in this area.

Mr. Wildman: Since the minister has said he will be meeting with the union and the company in Wawa, is he aware that over the last few years Algoma has sourced more and more of its iron ore from the Tilden mine in Michigan to the point that the Algoma Ore division is now providing only about 40 per cent of the ore used at the Algoma Steel Corp., whereas historically it was at a level of 60 per cent? Is he aware that the union anticipates the company may intend to cut the capacity at the Algoma Ore division sinter plant to 900,000 tons from the current capacity of 1.8 million tons? If he is aware of that, what does he intend to say to the company with regard to its Tilden-Michigan operation?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am not aware that the number of tons is going to go down from 1.8 million to 900,000. When I meet with the company again this week, I will take into account what the member is telling me and then, with the Premier, I will make a decision.

ONTARIO HUMANE SOCIETY

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Solicitor General. Last Thursday the minister told the House the Ontario Humane Society had not yet made an application to his ministry for its annual grant for 1986-87. Is the minister not aware that the society has been requesting adequate funding from the provincial government for several years to enable it to carry out its important responsibilities for enforcing Criminal Code sections relating to cruelty to farm animals and other animals? The society laid its needs before the deputy minister in February this year. Is he not aware that, as of April 1, the society has been forced to withdraw the services of all its agents and two inspectors across the province—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Bryden: —because the present level of funding at \$125,000 a year is inadequate to enable it to continue to operate that service?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I believe the question is, am I aware that it has indicated a desire for more funds? I am certainly aware it made a request for more funds, based on the Price Waterhouse report of some years ago, but it is still factual that it has not yet filled in its application form for the annual grant that, as has been communicated, will be available as soon as it requests it.

Ms. Bryden: When an organization has an annual grant under the budget, it does not usually make an application. Is the minister aware that the society produced a special edition of its Animal Action bulletin this year with the word "crisis" in two-inch red letters on the top, which I show to the minister? Surely this indicates the need for further funding.

Mr. Speaker: Are you aware, Minister?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I am aware of seeing the bulletin from across the aisle. It has never been sent to my office.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Brandt: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), I will address my question to the Premier.

As the Premier is well aware, the Sarnia community has made a request to the Minister of Health for the funding of a chronic care hospital expansion at St. Joseph's Hospital. In a voluntary effort, the community has raised about \$4 million and has been patiently awaiting word from the government when the funding will come forward for that facility. Can the Premier give us some indication of when the Sarnia request will be funded and when other requests—from right across this province, quite frankly—will be funded where there is a need for improvements in hospital care?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sorry, I cannot assist the honourable member on the specific request of Sarnia. I do not know about it. I can inquire from the minister whether he has any news for the member.

The member's point is well taken. There are a number of requests from right across the province, which is nothing new to him. He is aware of the enormous capital pressures on the system. We are trying to sort this out in as fair-minded a way as we can. There was an announcement in the throne speech that we would take a long-term view of the capital funding project so we should not hold everybody in suspense. We shall try to work with the communities so they will know with some certainty where they fit into the program.

The pressure that is coming for capital funding is no surprise to the member. I do not know how long St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia has been on the list; I assume probably for years as have many others around here. I do not know what answers the member gave them when he was a minister of the crown, but he can tell them for us that we shall look at it in context with the needs right across the province and try to do that in as fair-minded a way as we possibly can.

Mr. Brandt: As the Premier is aware, many millions of dollars were expended in hospital expansions in his own area of London. Right across this province there have been many capital expansions. All I am asking of the Premier is to give some indication of when the next round of improvements in hospital expansions is going to take place, recognizing that there has been very little comment from the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) either with respect to needed hospital facilities that have to be improved upon in this province or with respect to other matters, such as the negotiating problem on the extra billing ban. We are looking to the Premier for some leadership on that side to help us with this problem.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to the member and his colleagues, he really is strange. The Minister of Health was sitting in the House, and the member could have asked him any question he wants to know about. The minister is here most days, a lot more often than most of the members opposite who are in semi-retirement. The minister is here doing his duties. If the member wants to know, he can ask him. There are no secrets here.

Mr. Brandt: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: That is an extremely unfair accusation for the Premier to make. He knows full well there is a lineup of questions. I waited patiently to address my question to the Minister of Health, and in his absence to the Premier. The minister chose to leave, not I. I am here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the party of the honourable member does not take him seriously enough to put him on the top of the list, I cannot—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not a point of order.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Morin: I have before me a petition signed by 176 members of the Ontario Motor League requesting the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre, from 8.3 cents a

litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately, and to phase in further reductions over three years to five cents a litre by 1989.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Breagh: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

It is signed by 51 constituents from Oshawa.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition regarding Bill 78, the rent control legislation, demanding its immediate implementation.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on social development be reappointed and authorized to meet this afternoon following routine proceedings.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I understand you are going to entertain a motion to set aside the ordinary business. The House leaders have agreed that certain government notices of motion might be proceeded with, and with the agreement of the House, at this time I would like to move resolution 1.

Mr. Speaker: You have heard the suggestion by the government House leader. Do members of the House agree to going ahead with this order of business?

Agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Caplan, resolution 1:

That the standing orders be amended as follows:

1. Standing orders 2, 3 and 4 be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"2. (a) The House shall meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and on Thursdays at 10 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.

"(b) The bells shall be rung for five minutes before the time appointed for the meeting of the House to summon the members.

"(c) The Speaker shall take the chair at the time appointed on every day fixed for the meeting of the House and shall read the prayers.

"(d) The House shall not meet on New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, the day fixed for a civic holiday in August, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. When Canada Day falls on a Tuesday, the House shall not meet the preceding day.

"3. (a) Except as provided in clause (c) and in standing order 28, at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion until the next sitting day.

"(b) Except as provided in standing order 64(f), at 12 noon on any day on which the House meets in the morning, the Speaker shall leave the chair until 2 p.m.

"(c) The House may sit beyond the hours set out in clause (a) on the passage of a government motion for that purpose. The question on such motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate; but such government motion shall not pass if 20 members stand in their places. However, if a recorded vote is requested, the division bell shall be limited to 15 minutes.

"(d) When the House adjourns, the members shall keep their seats until the Speaker has left the chamber.

"4. (a) Whenever the House stands adjourned, if it appears to the Speaker, on the advice of the government, that the public interest requires the House to meet at an earlier time, the Speaker may give notice that the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet to transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

"(b) In the event of the Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House shall act in the Speaker's stead for the purposes of this standing order."

2. Standing order 28(a) be amended by striking out "8" in the last line and substituting therefor "5."

3. Standing order 28(b) be amended by striking out "10:30 p.m." in the second line and substituting therefor "6:30 p.m."

4. Standing order 28(f) be amended by striking out "10:30 o'clock" in the first line and substituting therefor "6:30."

5. Standing order 64(a) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"64. (a) Unless otherwise ordered, each Thursday during the session, the House will meet in the morning for the consideration of private members' public business. On such a day, the routine proceedings shall be at 2 p.m."

6. Standing order 64(f) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"64. (f) No question shall be put to the House before 12 noon. At that time the votes on items on which a vote has not been blocked under clause (e) shall be taken. If a recorded vote is requested by five members, the division bell shall be limited to five minutes. The House will sit until the necessary votes have been completed, at which time the Speaker shall leave the chair until 2 p.m."

7. Standing order 5(b) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"5. (b) If at any time after prayers, the Speaker's attention is drawn to the fact that a quorum is not present, the Speaker shall, upon determining that a quorum is not present, cause the bells to be rung until a quorum is present and, in any case, for no longer than five minutes. If a quorum is not present after the expiration of five minutes, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put until the next sitting day. The matter under consideration prior to the adjournment is deemed to be adjourned to a future sitting day."

8. Standing order 5(c) be amended by striking out "standing order 2(c)" in the third line and substituting "clause (b)" in lieu thereof.

9. Standing order 5 be amended by adding the following clause:

"5. (d) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the House for want of a quorum, the names of the members then present shall be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings."

10. Standing order 25 be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"25. The routine proceedings before the orders of the day are as follows: members' statements, statements by the ministry and responses, oral questions, petitions, reports by committees, motions, introduction of bills."

11. The standing orders be amended by adding the following new standing order:

"25a. (a) A member, other than a leader of a recognized party in the House or a minister of the crown, may be recognized to make a statement for not more than one and one half minutes.

"(b) The period for members' statements shall be limited to 10 minutes.

"(c) Members shall be recognized as follows: the official opposition first, followed by other recognized opposition parties in order of their membership in the House and finally the government, and then in rotation, starting with the official opposition, until the time provided in clause (b) has expired."

12. Standing order 64(k) be deleted.

13. Standing order 26 be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"26. (a) A minister of the crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed.

"(b) The time allotted to ministerial statements shall not exceed 20 minutes without the unanimous consent of the House.

"(c) Two copies of each ministerial statement shall be delivered to opposition party leaders or their representatives at or before the time the statement is made in the House.

"(d) After any policy statement, the minister shall table a compendium of background information.

"(e) Following ministerial statements a representative or representatives of each of the recognized opposition parties in the House may comment for up to a total of five minutes for each party commencing with the official opposition."

14. In exercising his discretion pursuant to standing order 27(d) to permit supplementary questions, the House recommends that the Speaker permit supplementary questions as follows:

Official opposition—one question and two supplementary questions;

Official opposition—one question and two supplementary questions;

Third party—one question and two supplementary questions;

Third party—one question and two supplementary questions;

All other questions—one question and one supplementary question.

15. Standing order 30 be amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

"30. (d) Within 120 days of the presentation of a committee report as provided in clauses (b) and (c), the government shall, upon the request of the committee, table a comprehensive response."

16. Standing order 33(b) be amended by striking out the words "On the petition of 20 members any such report shall be referred to a standing or select committee of the House."

17. Standing order 33(c) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"33. (c) Statutory annual reports provided for in clause (b) shall be deemed to have been permanently referred to the appropriate standing committee."

18. Standing order 34 be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"34. (a) Following the routine proceedings and before the orders of the day on an afternoon sitting, any member may move to set aside the ordinary business of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance requiring immediate consideration.

"(b) The Speaker shall then rule whether or not the motion is in order based on the following criteria:

"(i) the member proposing the motion shall give written notice of the motion to the Speaker at least two hours before the afternoon sitting of the House;

"(ii) not more than one such motion may be made at the same sitting;

"(iii) not more than one matter may be discussed on the same motion;

"(iv) the motion must not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session under this standing order;

"(v) the motion must not raise a question of privilege; and

"(vi) the discussion under the motion must not raise any question that, according to the standing orders of the House, can only be debated on a distinct motion under notice.

"(c) If the Speaker determines that the motion is in order, the member proposing the motion may state his arguments in favour of his motion in not more than five minutes. One member from each of the other recognized parties in the House may state the position of his party with respect to the motion in not more than five minutes.

"(d) The Speaker shall then put the question 'Shall the debate proceed?' to a vote of the House.

"(e) If the House determines by its vote to set aside the normal business of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, each member who wishes to speak in the discussion shall be limited to 10 minutes, and the debate shall conclude when all members who wish to take part have spoken or at the hour of 6:30 p.m., whichever shall be first."

19. Standing order 36 be amended by striking out "The previous question" in the first line and substituting therefor "A motion for closure" and by striking out "the previous question" in the seventh line and substituting therefor "a motion for closure."

20. The standing orders be amended by adding the following new standing order:

"37a. Except in the case of a motion that a certain member do take the chair of the House as Speaker, a motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne and the budget motion, no motion or amendment shall be required to be seconded before the question thereon is proposed from the chair."

21. Standing order 31 be amended by striking out "or a seconder" in the last line.

22. Standing order 32(a) be amended by striking out "properly seconded" in the first and second lines.

23. Standing order 35(a) be amended by striking out "or a seconder" in the last line.

24. Standing order 36 be amended by striking out "or a seconder" in the second line.

25. Standing order 37(c) be amended by inserting "and" after "notice" in the first line and by striking out "and must be seconded" in the second line.

26. Standing order 52 be amended by striking out "or seconder" in the first line and by striking out "and a seconder" in the last line.

27. Part XI of the standing orders be revoked and the following substituted therefor:

"XI. PRIVATE BILLS

"65. (a) Any person, group or corporation may make an application for a private bill by filing with the Clerk of the House,

"(i) a copy of the bill;

"(ii) a fee of \$150; and

"(iii) a declaration proving publication of the notices referred to in clause (e).

"(b) Every applicant for a private bill shall pay,

"(i) the cost of printing the bill at all of its stages including reprinting if it is amended; and

"(ii) the cost of printing the act in the annual statutes.

"(c) Where, at the request of the applicant, a standing order is suspended with reference to a private bill, a charge of \$50 shall be levied.

"(d) Where a private bill relates to a charitable organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada), the standing committee on regulations and private bills may recommend that the fee paid under clause (a) be remitted, and if

the recommendation is approved by the House, the remitted fee shall be applied to reduce any costs payable under clause (b) and the committee may, having regard to the circumstances, recommend that all or part of the costs payable under clause (b) be waived and, if the recommendation is approved by the House, the costs shall be waived.

"(e) Notice of an application for a private bill shall be given before it is read a first time by publishing the notice once a week for at least four weeks in each of the Ontario Gazette and one newspaper circulated in the municipality most affected and the notice shall,

"(i) be signed by or on behalf of the applicant;

"(ii) clearly state the nature and object of the application;

"(iii) when the application refers to any proposed work, indicate generally the location of the work;

"(iv) where the application is by a municipal corporation for authority to issue debentures, set out the particulars of the existing debenture debt and the amount of the rateable property of the municipality according to the last revised assessment roll of the corporation, and in brief and general terms the object for which the new issue of debentures is required; and

"(v) state that any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions for or against the application when it is considered by the standing committee on regulations and private bills should notify the Clerk of the House in writing.

"(f) Notice of an application for a private bill is valid for the calendar year in which the last notice is published and until the first day of July in the next following calendar year.

"(g) Where,

"(i) an application for a private bill is made during a session but the bill is not read a first time; or

"(ii) a private bill is read a first time but is not considered by the standing committee on regulations and private bills before dissolution or prorogation,

"the application shall be considered during the next regular session of the House without publishing further notice of the application and without payment of additional fees under clause (a).

"66. The Clerk of the House shall refer to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly any application that, in his opinion, does not comply with the standing orders.

"67. When any private bill confirming any letters patent or agreement is presented to the House, a copy of the letters patent or agreement shall be included in the bill.

"68. No private bill relating to the status of a corporation shall be considered by the standing committee on regulations and private bills until there has been deposited with the Clerk of the House a certificate of the Minister of Revenue showing that all taxes payable under the Corporations Tax Act in respect of the corporation have been paid.

"69. (a) Every private bill when read a first time, shall, unless it is an estate bill or a bill providing for a consolidation of a floating debt or for the consolidation or renewal of debentures, other than local improvement debentures of a municipal corporation, stand referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills and all petitions and correspondence to the House for or against the bill stand referred to the committee.

"(b) No private bill shall be given first reading unless a compendium of background information has been deposited with the Clerk of the House by the applicant.

"(c) The compendium required under clause (b) shall cite the precedents, if any, used in drafting the private bill and shall contain an up-to-date consolidation of existing legislation that is amended by the bill.

"(d) The standing committee on regulations and private bills may adopt guidelines related to the form and content of the compendium required by clause (b).

"(e) Where the purpose of a private bill application is to amend a section of an existing private act or the private bill would have the effect of amending a section of an existing private act, the private bill shall re-enact the section in its entirety.

"70. (a) Every private bill or part of a bill of a municipal corporation providing for the consolidation of a floating debt or the consolidation or renewal of debentures, other than local improvement debentures, stands referred to the Ontario Municipal Board after first reading.

"(b) The board, after due inquiry, shall report to the House whether or not it is reasonable that the bill, or the part thereof relating to the matters referred to in clause (a), should pass and what, if any, alterations are necessary.

"(c) A report of the Ontario Municipal Board shall be transmitted to the Clerk of the House.

"(d) The bill and report shall stand referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills.

"71. (a) Every estate bill or part of a bill that contains an estate bill provision stands referred to the commissioners of estate bills after first reading.

"(b) The commissioners of estate bills, or any two of them, shall report their opinion on the bill or the part thereof that has been submitted to them and whether, presuming the allegations contained in the preamble to be proven to the satisfaction of the House, it is reasonable for the bill or the part thereof to pass and what, if any, alterations are necessary.

"(c) A report of the commissioners of estate bills shall be transmitted to the Clerk of the House.

"(d) Where the commissioners of estate bills report that in their opinion it is not reasonable that the bill or the part thereof submitted to them pass into law, the bill or the part thereof shall not be further considered.

"(e) Where the bill or the part thereof submitted to the commissioners of estate bills is reported favourably by the commissioners, the bill and the report shall stand referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills and where only part of a bill is submitted to the commissioners and the commissioners report that, in their opinion, it is not reasonable that the part pass into law, the bill shall stand referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills and the committee shall amend the bill by deleting therefrom the part to which the report relates.

"72. The Clerk of the House shall post on all notice boards five calendar days' notice of the date on which any private bill is to be considered by the standing committee on regulations and private bills and the notice shall be published in the Orders and Notices paper.

"73. Any person whose interest or property may be affected by a private bill, when required, shall appear before the standing committee on regulations and private bills to express his consent or objection, or may consent in writing, proof of which may be demanded by the committee.

"74. Private bills when reported by the standing committee on regulations and private bills shall be placed on the Orders and Notices paper for second reading.

"75. Private bills amended by a committee may be reprinted before further consideration, as the Clerk of the House may direct.

"76. Private bills, after second reading, shall be ordered for third reading, unless specially

ordered referred to the committee of the whole House.

"77. Except when waived by unanimous consent of the House, notice is required for a motion to dispense with any standing order relating to private bills.

"78. A private bill register shall be kept in the office of the Clerk of the House, in which shall be entered the name, description and place of residence of the parties applying for the bill, or of their agent, and all the proceedings thereon, such register to be open to public inspection daily, during office hours.

"79. (a) Every parliamentary agent conducting proceedings before the House is personally responsible to the House and to the Speaker for the observance of the standing orders and practices of parliament, and also for the payment of all fees and charges.

"(b) Any parliamentary agent who wilfully acts in violation of the standing orders and practices of parliament, or who wilfully misconducts himself in prosecuting any proceedings before the House, is liable to an absolute or temporary prohibition to practise as a parliamentary agent, at the pleasure of the Speaker.

"80. The Clerk of the House shall publish weekly in the Ontario Gazette the following notice:

'APPLICATIONS TO PARLIAMENT

'PRIVATE BILLS

'PUBLIC NOTICE

"The rules of procedure and the fees and costs related to applications for private bills are set out in the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. Copies of the standing orders may be obtained from:

"The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Room 110, Legislature Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2. Telephone 416/965-1406. (Collect calls will be accepted.)

"Applicants should note that consideration of applications for private bills that are received after the first day of September in any calendar year may be postponed until the first regular session in the next following calendar year."

28. The standing orders be amended by adding the following new standing order:

"19a. (a) Following the speech of each member, a period not exceeding 10 minutes shall be made available, if required, to allow members to ask questions and comment briefly on matters relevant to the matters before the House and to

allow responses thereto in the following circumstances:

"(i) debate on second reading of a government bill, but no such 10-minute period shall be allowed following the reply allowed to the minister or parliamentary assistant who has moved second reading of the bill;

"(ii) debate on third reading of a government bill, but no such 10-minute period shall be allowed following the reply allowed to the minister or parliamentary assistant who has moved third reading of the bill;

"(iii) debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, but no such 10-minute period shall be allowed following the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the motion for the address, the speeches of the members speaking first on behalf of the official opposition and the other recognized opposition parties and the speeches of the members winding up the throne debate for each recognized party;

"(iv) debate on the budget motion, but no such 10-minute period shall be allowed following the presentation of the budget by the Treasurer, the speeches of the members speaking first on behalf of the official opposition and the other recognized parties and the speeches of the members winding up the budget debate for each recognized party; and

"(v) debate on a motion for interim supply.

"(b) In asking a question or making a comment with respect to the matters set out in clause (a), no member shall speak for more than two minutes. Two minutes shall be reserved for the reply of the member originally speaking."

29. Standing orders 83, 84, 85, 88, 89, 91 and 92 be deleted and the standing orders be amended by adding the following new standing orders:

"83. Within the first 10 sitting days following the commencement of each session in a parliament the membership of the following standing committees shall be appointed for the duration of the session:

"(a) Standing committee on administration of justice;

"(b) Standing committee on general government;

"(c) Standing committee on resources development;

"(d) Standing committee on social development;

"(e) Standing committee on finance and economic affairs, which is empowered to consider and report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations on the fiscal and economic policies of the province and to which

all related documents shall be deemed to have been referred immediately when the said documents are tabled;

"(f) Standing committee on government agencies, which is empowered to review and report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations on the operation of all agencies, boards and commissions to which the Lieutenant Governor in Council makes some or all of the appointments, and all corporations to which the crown in right of Ontario is a majority shareholder, such reviews to be made with a view to reducing possible redundancy and overlapping, improving the accountability of agencies, rationalizing the functions of the agencies, identifying those agencies or parts of agencies which could be subject to sunset provisions, and revising the mandates and roles of agencies;

"(g) Standing committee on the Ombudsman, which is empowered to review and consider from time to time the reports of the Ombudsman as they become available; and, as the committee deems necessary, pursuant to the Ombudsman Act, subsection 16(1), to formulate general rules for the guidance of the Ombudsman in the exercise of his functions under the act; and to report thereon to the Legislature and to make such recommendations as the committee deems appropriate.

"(h) Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, which is empowered to review on its own initiative or at the request of the Speaker or the direction of the House and to report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations on the standing orders of the House and the procedures in the House and its committees; to advise the Speaker and the Board of Internal Economy, and to report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations on the administration of the House and the provision of services and facilities to members; and to act as an advisory body to the Speaker and the House on the television broadcast system and to conduct reviews, at least on an annual basis, of the televising of the legislative proceedings and of the guidelines established by the House with respect to the television broadcast system;

"(i) Standing committee on public accounts, which is empowered to review and report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations on the report of the Provincial Auditor and the public accounts, which documents shall be deemed to have been permanently referred to the committee as they become available; and

"(j) Standing committee on regulations and private bills, to be the committee to which all

private bills, other than estate bills or bills providing for the consolidation of a floating debt or renewal of debentures, other than local improvement debentures, of a municipal corporation shall be referred after first reading; and to be the committee provided for by section 12 of the Regulations Act and having the terms of reference as set out in that section, namely, to examine the regulations with particular reference to the scope and method of the exercise of delegated legislative power without reference to the merits of the policy or objectives to be effected by the regulations or enabling statutes, but in so doing regard shall be had to the following guidelines:

"(1) Regulations should not contain provisions initiating new policy, but should be confined to details to give effect to the policy established by the statute;

"(2) Regulations should be in strict accord with the statute conferring of power, particularly concerning personal liberties;

"(3) Regulations should be expressed in precise and unambiguous language;

"(4) Regulations should not have retrospective effect unless clearly authorized by statute;

"(5) Regulations should not exclude the jurisdiction of the courts;

"(6) Regulations should not impose a fine, imprisonment or other penalty;

"(7) Regulations should not shift the onus of proof of innocence to a person accused of an offence;

"(8) Regulations should not impose anything in the way of a tax (as distinct from fixing the amount of a licence fee or the like); and

"(9) General powers should not be used to establish a judicial tribunal or an administrative tribunal;

"And the committee shall from time to time report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations as required by subsection 12(3) of the Regulations Act, but before drawing the attention of the House to a regulation or other statutory instrument the committee shall afford the ministry or agency concerned an opportunity to furnish orally or in writing to the committee such explanation as the ministry or agency thinks fit.

"84. (a) Standing and select committees shall be severally empowered to examine, inquire into and report from time to time on all such matters as may be referred to them by the House.

"(b) Except when the House otherwise orders, each committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and things.

"(c) A standing or select committee to which a bill has been referred by the House shall be empowered to report the same with or without amendments or to report that the bill be not reported.

"85. (a) Select committees of the House may be appointed for any purpose or to consider any matter referred to them.

"(b) The motion to appoint a select committee may contain the names of the members proposed to be members of the committee and such motion is subject to amendment.

"(c) No standing or select committee shall consist of more than 11 members and the membership of such committees shall be in proportion to the representation of the recognized parties in the House.

"(d) Any member appointed to a standing or select committee may, at any time afterwards, be discharged by order of the House from attending the committee and another member appointed.

"(e) A temporary substitution in the membership of a standing or select committee may be made provided a notification thereof, signed by the member acting as the whip of a recognized party, is filed with the clerk of the committee either before or within 30 minutes of a committee meeting being called to order.

"86. The Clerk of the House shall post in the Legislative Building a list of members serving on each standing and select committee.

"87. Within 10 sitting days following the appointment of the membership of the standing committees, the Clerk of the House shall convene a meeting of each standing committee for the purpose of electing a chairman and vice-chairman.

"88. (a) The chairmanships of the standing committees set out in standing order 83 shall be distributed in proportion to the representation of the recognized parties in the House.

"(b) The chairman of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs shall be a member of the party forming the government and the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts shall be a member of the party forming the official opposition.

"(c) Failing consensus on the distribution of the chairmanships of these standing committees, the recognized parties in the House shall choose which committees they wish to be chaired by one of their own members in rounds, through the House leaders, as follows: the government first, followed by the official opposition and then the other recognized opposition parties in order of their membership in the House, and then in

rotation until the distribution is completed according to the number of chairmen from each recognized party as determined in clause (a).

"89. Each standing committee shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman at its first meeting in each session and, if necessary, during the course of a session.

"90. Upon a written request signed by a majority of the members of a standing or select committee, the chairman of the committee shall convene a meeting of the committee within 10 sitting days following the receipt of such request by the clerk of the committee. The reasons for convening such a meeting shall be stated in the request.

"91. The clerk of each standing and select committee shall attend each meeting of the committee and shall record the names of the members of the committee present at each meeting in the minutes of proceedings.

"92. (a) A majority of the members of a standing or a select committee, including the chairman, shall constitute a quorum.

"(b) Any committee may authorize the chairman to hold meetings to receive evidence when a quorum is not present.

"(c) If at any time during the sitting of a standing or select committee the chairman of the committee is advised by a member of the committee that a quorum is not present, the chairman shall, upon determining that a quorum is not present, suspend the proceedings of the committee; if no quorum is present at the expiration of 10 minutes, the chairman shall adjourn the committee to the next scheduled sitting of the committee.

"(d) Whenever the chairman of a standing or select committee adjourns the committee for want of a quorum, the clerk of the committee shall record the time of the adjournment and the names of the members then present in the minutes of proceedings.

"93. (a) Standing and select committees may be authorized by the House to meet on Monday evenings to hear submissions from the public, provided that the motion authorizing a committee to meet is made at the unanimous request of the committee and with the agreement of the House leader of each of the recognized parties in the House.

"(b) Except by unanimous consent of the committee, no standing or select committee authorized to meet in the evening may continue to sit beyond 10:30 p.m. when the House is in session.

"94. In any standing or select committee, the standing orders of the House shall be observed so far as may be applicable, except the standing orders limiting the number of times of speaking.

"95. The chairman of a standing or select committee shall maintain order in the committee and decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the committee; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House on receiving a report thereof.

"96. (a) Standing and select committees may adjourn from place to place in Ontario.

"(b) Standing and select committees shall be severally empowered to retain the services of expert, professional, technical and clerical staff as may be deemed necessary.

"(c) Except with the written authorization of the Speaker, a standing or select committee shall not incur any expenses related to matters referred to in clauses (a) and (b) until a budget for such expenditures has been approved in whole or in part by the Board of Internal Economy.

"97. (a) At the beginning of each fiscal year or as soon as possible thereafter, the clerk of a standing or select committee shall prepare a budget at the direction of the committee, and the chairman of the committee, or a member acting for the chairman, shall present to the Board of Internal Economy for its approval in whole or in part, the budget adopted by a majority of the committee setting forth in reasonable detail estimates of its proposed expenditures for the fiscal year.

"(b) When the expenditures of any such committee have reached the limits set forth in any such budget, the chairman shall present to the Board of Internal Economy for its approval in whole or in part, a supplementary budget or budgets.

"(c) The clerk of a standing or select committee shall administer and monitor the expenditures of any such committee and shall advise the committee if expenditures are likely to exceed the budget approved by the Board of Internal Economy.

"98. (a) Unless otherwise ordered, standing or select committees shall have the power to appoint subcommittees which shall have power to report from time to time to the committee.

"(b) Every such subcommittee shall be appointed by motion, such motion specifying the terms of reference, the membership of the subcommittee and the number of members required to constitute a quorum.

"99. Any member of the House who is not a member of a standing or select committee may,

unless the House or the committee concerned otherwise orders, take part in the public proceedings of the committee but may not vote or move any motion, nor be part of any quorum.

"100. On a division being called in the House, the chairman of a standing or select committee shall suspend the proceedings in the committee for such time as will in his opinion enable members to vote in the division in the House and return to the committee.

"101. (a) When a division takes place in a standing or select committee, the clerk of the committee shall record in the minutes of proceedings the question proposed, the name of the proposer, and if requested by any member, the vote of each member present.

"(b) When members are called in for a division, there shall be a maximum wait of 20 minutes before the vote is recorded.

"102. The chairman of a standing or select committee shall not vote except in the case of a tie, when the chairman shall give a casting vote.

"103. (a) The report of a standing or select committee is the report as determined by the committee as a whole or a majority thereof.

"(b) No minority report may be presented to or received by the House.

"(c) Every member shall be permitted to indicate in a report that he dissents from a particular recommendation or comment within the report. The committee shall permit a member to express the reasons for his dissent within its report.

"(d) The report as agreed to shall be signed by the chairman on behalf of the committee and shall be presented to the House by the chairman or by another member of the committee authorized by the chairman or the committee.

"COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

"104. (a) When an order of the day is read for the House to resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, the Speaker shall leave the chair without a question put, and the House shall thereupon resolve itself into a committee.

"(b) When the Speaker has left the chair, the mace shall be placed under the table and the chairman of the committees of the whole House shall take the chair of the committee at the table.

"105. The standing orders of the House shall be observed in committees of the whole House so far as may be applicable, except the standing orders limiting the number of times of speaking.

"106. The chairman shall maintain order in a committee of the whole House and decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the House; but disorder in a committee of the whole

House can only be censured by the House on receiving a report thereof.

"107. A committee of the whole House may not adjourn its own sitting or the consideration of any matter to a future date, but this standing order shall not affect the application of standing order 10.

"108. A motion may be moved during the proceedings of a committee of the whole House that the chairman report progress and ask for leave to sit again, and such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

"109. (a) A motion that the chairman of a committee of the whole House leave the chair is always in order and shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

"(b) If such a motion is carried, further proceedings of a committee of the whole House on the matter or bill then under consideration shall be superseded; but the matter or bill may, on motion with notice, be revived and proceedings shall be resumed at the point where they were interrupted. Such a motion shall not prejudice or in any way affect any other matters or bills referred to the committee of the whole House.

"(c) If such a motion is defeated, no other such motion shall be made unless some intermediate proceeding has taken place."

30. Standing orders 86, 87 and 90 be renumbered 110, 56(d) and 111 respectively.

31. All standing orders subsequent to the current standing order 92 be renumbered accordingly.

32. The standing orders be amended by adding thereto the following standing order:

"58a. (a) The chairman of a committee considering a bill shall initial each section of the bill as it is passed and sign the bill.

"(b) Amendments shall be clearly indicated in the signed copy and the amendments or additions shall be initialled by the chairman."

33. Unless otherwise ordered, the provisional standing orders shall be in effect during the period commencing at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the adoption of these amendments, and concluding at 12 midnight on Thursday, December 18, 1986.

34. The Clerk of the House be authorized and instructed to print a revised and renumbered edition of the standing orders integrating the provisional standing orders and making any necessary amendments in consequence thereof.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: Is the minister not going to say anything?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I thought perhaps I might.

Mr. Timbrell: I understand the government House leader wishes to speak last.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Or I can speak not at all.

Mr. Timbrell: Or not at all, which would be even better. I wish only to indicate the support of the official opposition for this motion, which came about as a result of a great deal of work on the part of members of all three parties.

In the 15 years I have sat here in the Legislature, we have seen a variety of changes in the standing orders, all of them leading to a more open legislative process; a progression which I support.

I must admit that in that this stage in that progress began while I sat on the other side of the House, and is concluding while I sit on this side, my perspective has changed somewhat. My attitude about certain proposals which a year ago were anathema to me all of a sudden became rather enlightened. In that it is unlikely I ever shall change my perspective back, at least not as a sitting member but as a supporter of the next government, we shall have to wait for the next phase.

However, I congratulate the chairman of the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions and his colleagues for their report. I also want to thank the whips who, along with support staff, carried out most of the negotiations among the parties leading to this motion today.

Mr. McClellan: I too want to speak very briefly as we take the historic step today of reforming, once again, our own standing orders.

The reforms set out in the motion the government House leader has moved are quite significant. They increase the role of the ordinary back-bencher in the assembly during proceedings in question period, debates in the House and in standing and select committees.

The work of reforming the standing orders, as the House leader of the official opposition said, has been a long and arduous process which began in 1977 with the work of the procedural affairs committee in the second minority government. The chairman was the same person.

Ms. Gigantes: The same illustrious chairman.

Mr. McClellan: He was the same illustrious chairman then as now. Many of the recommendations which were allowed to gather dust during the interregnum of majority government have borne fruit in the reforms set out in the motion before us today.

I am especially pleased that after so long a time we are abolishing evening sittings, which are a relic from the days when the Legislature met two or three weeks or a month per year and people had regular, full-time occupations. The attempt was to get the legislative session over and done with as quickly as possible.

Now that we are sitting virtually nine or 10 months a year, evening sittings have become for members a major burden that quite significantly affects their health. I offer the members exhibit A, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), to my right.

Finally, I also commend the member for London South (Ms. E. J. Smith), the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), the three whips for the parties, who did most of the detailed work of hammering out a consensus and a compromise.

The motion before you, Mr. Speaker, is very much a consensus and a compromise that was accomplished after a great deal of goodwill and give and take between all three parties.

We look forward to 12 noon tomorrow when we begin the new regime.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would join with the other two House leaders in welcoming the advent of this latest revision of the rules and in expressing my thanks, along with theirs, to the staff, the whips and others who worked long and hard to reach agreement. I tend not to have much patience with these things myself, for some reason. I regret that because, as a person who is very interested in the work of the assembly, I want the rules to work well and effectively.

One of the regrets I have experienced over my years in the House is that, apart from question period and certain other ancillary orders of business, I have seen the involvement of private members reduced until most of our work is done with a quorum or fewer. I find this regrettable and I believe that at least some aspects of the rules will involve more members in the regular debates which should become more interesting. We shall have an opportunity to exchange views at the time the views are put forward rather than to insist they be put on ice and raised at some subsequent time when the point is long since forgotten and has lost whatever relevance it might have had on that occasion.

I would point out something that may be in response to the honourable member the House leader for the official oppositon. He said his views changed a bit when he was transposed to opposition. Perhaps mine have not changed as

much as they might have, and there are things here that my colleagues are not as enthused about as I have been and continue to be enthused about.

There is very little here which serves the government in a way to expedite business. Some of the original drafts called for limits on the lengths of speeches. Right from the beginning my own feeling was some lack of enthusiasm for that, even though I have felt frankly that lengthy speeches can be an abuse of the intention of the work in the House. Rather than trying to push for that or to stand pat for some sort of a limit, I felt it would be better simply to leave that as a weapon—if we may call it that—for any member of the House who wants to bring special attention to a matter which is unsatisfactory or remains unsatisfactory.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have handed out some of it. It is worse receiving it than handing it out, that is for sure.

I am absolutely delighted with this latest structuring of the rules. I know they will be improved, perhaps at the end of this trial session this year with the introduction of some amendments at that time. I hope we shall find them to be useful, and that it will not be very long before we take for granted that the session opens, after prayers, with brief statements made by private members. Probably the person who is under the gun more than anyone else will be you, Mr. Speaker; you have to be familiar with the whole thing. While I can assure you that we all have examined the rules carefully and are very familiar with all the details, it will be up to you, sir, to keep us within the parameters that we now accept as we support this notice of motion.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: That means I shall have to stay up all night, burn the midnight oil and study.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is interesting reading. You will like it, Mr. Speaker.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Caplan, resolution 2:

That the following schedule for committee meetings be established for this session: the standing committee on administration of justice may meet on Monday and Tuesday afternoons; the standing committee on finance and economic affairs may meet on Thursday mornings; the standing committee on general government may meet on Thursday mornings and, if required, on Thursday afternoons;

The standing committee on government agencies may meet on Wednesday mornings; the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly may meet on Wednesday afternoons; the standing committee on the Ombudsman may meet on Wednesday mornings; the standing committee on public accounts may meet on Thursday mornings; the standing committee on regulations and private bills may meet on Wednesday mornings; the standing committee on resources development may meet on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons; and the standing committee on social development may meet on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I say in parenthesis that under the new rules, seconders would not be required for motions of this type, so Ms. Caplan would not have to hang around.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Caplan, resolution 3:

That the membership on the standing committees for the second session of the 33rd Parliament be as follows:

Standing committee on administration of justice: Messrs. Brandt, Callahan, Cooke (Kitchen), Ms. Fish, Ms. Gigantes, Ms. Hart, Messrs. O'Connor, Partington, Polsinelli, Villeneuve and Warner.

Standing committee on finance and economic affairs: Messrs. Ashe, Barlow, Bossy, Cooke (Kitchen), Cordiano, Foulds, Haggerty, McFadden, Morin-Strom and Sargent and Miss Stephenson.

Standing committee on general government: Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Cousens, Dean and Guindon, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Henderson, McCague, McKessock, Newman, Pollock and Pouliot.

Standing committee on government agencies: Messrs. Epp, Grande, Gregory, Lane, Leluk and Mancini, Mrs. Marland, Messrs. Rowe, Sargent, Mrs. Smith (London South) and Mr. Swart.

Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly: Messrs. Bossy, Breagh, Johnson (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel), Mancini, Martel, Morin, Newman, Sterling, Treleaven, Turner and Warner.

Standing committee on the Ombudsman: Messrs. Bossy, Hayes, Henderson, Hennessy, McLean, McNeil, Morin, Newman, Philip, Sheppard and Shymko.

Standing committee on public accounts: Messrs. Epp, Ferraro, Gillies, Gordon, Harris,

Philip, Polsinelli, Pope, Runciman, Smith (Lambton) and Wildman.

Standing committee on regulations and private bills: Messrs. Callahan, Charlton, Cordiano, Cureatz, Ferraro, Haggerty, Hennessy, McKessock, Morin-Strom, Shymko and Wiseman.

Standing committee on resources development: Messrs. Bernier, Hayes, Knight, Laughren, McGuigan, Pierce, Ramsay, Smith (Lambton), South, Stevenson and Taylor.

Standing committee on social development: Messrs. Allen, Andrewes, Baetz, Davis, Jackson, Johnston (Scarborough West), Miller (Haldimand-Norfolk), Offer, Reville, Reycraft and Ward (Mr. Epp for Bill 30).

Motion agreed to.

3:40 p.m.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Morin-Strom moved, seconded by Mr. Wildman, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the economic crisis facing Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and, indeed, all of northern Ontario, as a result of Algoma Steel's program to downsize operations and permanently eliminate 1,500 jobs.

Mr. Speaker: The notice of motion was received in time, at 11:20 a.m. on April 25, and complies with standing order 34 regarding the notice requirements. I will listen to the member for Sault Ste. Marie for up to five minutes as well as to representatives from the other parties.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to speak to this motion, although I am not particularly pleased with the need to have to take such action. I am very concerned with the situation facing my home community, Sault Ste. Marie, and the surrounding areas in the district of Algoma and, indeed, similar ramifications in other areas of northern Ontario.

I am optimistic that the future of the community can be better, but it is essential that there be a full airing of this situation facing the community. The gravity of the situation is such that I believe we have to hold this debate today.

On April 16, Algoma Steel announced at its annual meeting a major downsizing of its operation and the permanent elimination of 1,500 jobs from the Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa areas. Their intention is to downsize the raw steel production capability from 3.5 million tons to 2.5 million tons and discontinue ingot produc-

tion. There will be quite a number of mill shutdowns as a consequence of this action.

Of particular concern is that this is not just a matter of market-related layoffs. We understand, and people in my community can more readily understand, a situation where the market has fallen and they do not have the orders to support the level of operations, as happened in the tube mill early this year, for example. The oil business has gone down with the collapsing oil prices, and as a result, the tube mill operation, which had been at 20 turns per week in December, has dropped to five turns per week at this point. That has resulted in a loss in the work force of more than 700 jobs.

Those types of market-related, short-term fluctuations up and down are one matter of serious concern. However, this announcement by the corporation is even more serious because it involves the permanent shutting down of mills, the laying off of staff and downsizing of the operation, which has dire long-term consequences in lost job opportunities in the community.

The area affected is not only Sault Ste. Marie, where Algoma Steel forms 25 per cent of the local work force, but also Wawa, which is virtually wholly dependent on the mining operation of Algoma Ore, and the Algoma Central Railway, two thirds of whose freight tonnage is directly related to Algoma Steel. If Algoma Steel were to shut down the Wawa operation, we would see not only the job losses in Wawa but also, as the ACR has indicated, very likely the nonviability and shutdown of that whole railway, which would have consequences in other, much broader areas than the lumber business, such as the tourist industry in the area, as well as in all the small communities along the ACR right up to Hearst.

The unemployment rate in the Sault today is totally unacceptable. The number of registrants at the unemployment office has increased from 5,200 last October to a current level of 7,400, an increase of 2,200 registrants in the past six months. This was before the impact of the proposed downsizing and job losses.

In the Sault, some 2,500 individuals on social assistance are considered employable and more than 1,000 are considered unemployable. Considering the employables plus the number collecting unemployment insurance, we have a total of at least 8,000 unemployed in Sault Ste. Marie. Out of a work force of some 41,000, 20 per cent are unemployed. This makes the gravity of the situation facing Sault Ste. Marie quite apparent.

There is a desperate need for government action on this issue and on the general issue of single-industry towns across northern Ontario.

It is vitally important that we have a full discussion of this issue and that we look to a government that will implement a program of action to provide stability and economic growth for the Sault, Wawa and all of northern Ontario.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to rise on behalf of our party in support of the motion by the member for Sault Ste. Marie. We are very concerned about the situation in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa and, in fact, about the alarming situation that appears to be developing in a number of areas across the province.

To put it in perspective, I will mention a few figures that do not appear to concern the government. Whenever these figures are mentioned, all we hear about is the number of jobs created. We are delighted with the jobs created in some areas and in some segments of the economy. Unfortunately, there are more part-time jobs than we would like to see, concentrated in areas that do not need them to the same extent as such areas as eastern Ontario and northern Ontario, particularly Sault Ste. Marie.

In the one-month period February 1 to 28, total layoffs were 1,651; that is 65 per cent over the previous year. Of those layoffs, 1,290 were the result of complete closures, a rise of 458 over the same period in 1985. For the first two months of 1986, layoffs totalled 3,379, compared with 2,326 in the same period of 1985. The unemployment rate for economic district 591, which includes Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and Sudbury—we know not many of these are taking place in Timmins—stood at 11.7 per cent in February 1986, 11.3 per cent in January, 9.6 per cent in December 1985 and 10.1 in November. The members can see the trend that concerns us.

The number of people receiving unemployment insurance benefits in Sault Ste. Marie is 8,020, giving that city an unemployment rate close to 20 per cent now. The number of unemployment insurance claimants has risen dramatically over the past six months, by more than 53 per cent between October 1985 and April 1986. In October there were 5,216, in November 5,558, in December 5,836, in January 6,432, in February 6,922, in March 7,408 and in April 8,020.

These numbers are not something new. The layoff of an additional 1,500 workers announced recently was not something the government did not know about directly or ought not to have been able to anticipate, given the steel market.

3:50 p.m.

What is happening? One of the reasons this emergency debate should and must take place today is that we do not see the government doing anything other than the odd trip to Sweden to see what they do there. A number of things have been proposed right here in Ontario that we believe could be and should have been looked at by the government over this past year. Some of my colleagues will be getting into some of those examples.

The government will say, "What did you do?" or, "What would you do?" Therefore, let me tell members that in the June 1985 throne speech we committed our government to amending the Labour Relations Act to require advance notice and consultation. Nothing has happened on that for a year. We proposed to introduce a Pensions Benefits Act to ensure pension portability. We have had talk about that over the past year, and the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) says he might consider doing something about that by 1987.

In November 1984, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) said that if he became Premier he would require large companies to provide two years' warning before closing their operations. It is too bad he was not Premier today; we might not be facing quite the same situation. It is very tragic that we are talking about older workers in Sault Ste. Marie.

Our party supports this resolution and our members will be speaking to it.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We have no objection to the debate proceeding. I do not intend to use the five minutes other than to say that I have a special interest in the debate, having lived in Sault Ste. Marie myself some years ago. As a matter of fact, Highway 17 was not paved all the way to Sault Ste. Marie when I went there to take a job at the Sault collegiate institute. I did have an opportunity to follow the development of the steel industry and the iron ore industry in Wawa, or Jamestown as it was called for a brief time, during those developmental years.

It is a shame that world oil prices, as well as anything else, have affected the economy of this great city, which has had the advantage of substantial growth and improvements to its infrastructure in recent years. I was interested in meeting the former mayor and the city engineer in this matter, and what was particularly surprising was that both these worthies had been in the first class I taught in Sault Ste. Marie. I am not sure what that has to do with the five minutes at my disposal, but I knew you, Mr. Speaker, would be interested that my personal interest in

this debate is active and based on extensive experience in the area.

I hope that the utilization of the two hours and five or six minutes remaining this afternoon will be to the benefit of the Sault and that the people taking part in the debate will come forward with useful, workable concepts and ideas that will be to the advantage of the people in the Sault and of the Treasury of the province.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened to those who have spoken and it appears to me there is general agreement that the debate should proceed. However, I must place the question.

Shall the debate proceed?

Agreed.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Speaker: I remind members they have up to 10 minutes in this debate.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I express my concern at having to request this debate but appreciate the co-operation of all three parties in supporting the need for it. I look forward to hearing the comments of my fellow members in the two hours to come on the situation facing Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and the Algoma district and on the problems generally that have been faced by single-industry towns across the north over the years.

The situation in Sault Ste. Marie is a grave one, as we have seen and as has been mentioned in the preliminary remarks. The number of unemployed in the Sault has escalated tremendously in recent months. As recently as October 1985, registrants at the unemployment office in the Sault totalled 5,216. Since that point, the escalation has been steady, with more than 5,500 in November, 5,800 in December, 6,400 in January, 6,900 in February, 7,408 in March and reaching more than 8,000 in April, an increase of nearly 3,000 unemployed in Sault Ste. Marie. That is in advance of these major layoffs having to take place.

A good portion of those layoffs are from the spinoff effect of what happens when one has a major layoff at a major employer in a single-industry town such as the Sault. As I have mentioned, the tube mill slowdown from 20 turns last fall to a five-turn operation today has resulted in approximately 700 jobs being lost at Algoma Steel. These have spiralled into nearly 3,000 jobs throughout the community; that is the result of the multiplier effect taking consumer spending out of the community.

In Wawa, another 400 jobs are at stake—more than 400 jobs when one takes into account

management and salaried personnel there as well as the spinoff jobs in Wawa. Algoma Central Railway has a threatened shutdown. The lumber businesses along the ACR are dependent for low-cost transport of their material on the ACR. Two thirds of the business of ACR has to do with the steel company. It is extremely questionable whether it can remain viable, and if it can, what rates it would have to charge on the remaining freight to carry the load if it did not have the ore from Algoma Steel. The tour train in the Sault is a major concern relating to the ACR as well; 100,000 passengers are carried a year on it. These types of spinoffs are the kinds of effects that will ramify throughout the small business community in Sault Ste. Marie.

In regard to Algoma's specific action, I have particular concerns about Canadian Pacific's role in the northern economy and its influence on major corporations, which are its subsidiaries. Canadian Pacific has owned 61 per cent of Algoma Steel since the early 1970s, and the corporation has not done particularly well under the tutelage of Canadian Pacific.

Undoubtedly one of the main reasons that Canadian Pacific is holding Algoma is for the AMCA assets. AMCA is the new name for the Dominion Bridge operation, a major corporation located primarily in the United States and with sales of about \$2 billion; that is double the size of Algoma Steel. Algoma holds about 34 per cent of the shares of that corporation, and the market value of those shares is more than \$200 million.

If Algoma had the cash for those shares from Canadian Pacific, it could have paid off more than one third of Algoma's debt and put it into a much stronger financial position than it is in today. In fact, it would have brought Algoma into a profit-making position last year just based on the interest savings it would have had on its long-term debt, which today totals more than \$600 million.

We see Canadian Pacific taking similar action in Thunder Bay with Great Lakes Forest Products, which has recently announced in a similar fashion at its annual meeting the intention to shut down its waferboard plant. As well, we have the case of Kimberly-Clark suggesting the shutdown of its operation at Terrace Bay in northern Ontario.

We need action from this government. I hope we can get some action that will focus directly on the problems of northern Ontario. The recent throne speech was woefully inadequate in addressing the real issues in northern Ontario. There are references to certain northern prob-

lems, such as northern agriculture. There is a proposal for an advisory board for Ontario Hydro. There is talk about more tourism promotions programs. I believe the other major initiative was to build a new science and technology high school.

4 p.m.

Those proposals do not address the fundamental issues of the resource-based industries of northern Ontario. There is no mention of forestry or mining, and there is no mention of the critical nature of the steel mill in Sault Ste. Marie. There is no mention of the fact that many northern communities are single-industry towns dependent on one major industry for employment and support of economic development. Many of the jobs are dependent on those single industries.

The government has its much-acclaimed \$100-million northern development program over the next five years. It sounds great, but the amounts involved are small when one looks at the amount of discriminatory funding going to communities in southern Ontario, funding the north does not have the same opportunity to draw on.

Mr. Wildman: The domed stadium.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The domed stadium.

To give one example, I might mention an area that I believe is of tremendous importance to economic development in the north or in any region. If we want to stimulate new jobs and stimulate firms to locate in an area, I believe we need to have educational facilities that can train people and allow corporations in the forefront of technology to be retrained. Northern Ontario has been woefully underserved in university funding.

This \$100 million over five years is \$20 million per year for all of northern Ontario. Compare that with the funding for any of the major universities in southern Ontario. For example, the city of Kingston receives nearly \$90 million a year just for Queen's University. The city of Waterloo is receiving more than \$100 million a year in funding for the University of Waterloo. That alone is more than double the amount of university funds going into northern Ontario, where there are only two major universities, Lakehead University and Laurentian University of Sudbury. Each gets slightly more than \$20 million, while the Sault, which has a subcollege of Laurentian, gets a little more than \$2 million a year.

That kind of funding is a real economic disadvantage to northern Ontario. We have to demand that government spending be more

equitably balanced between the north and the south so the north has a chance to partake in equal proportion to what it is providing in tax revenues.

I look forward to hearing the suggestions of others. I know my colleagues will have a number of suggestions they will want to talk about. We have to look at demanding corporate accountability from those corporations to the employees and communities that are dependent on them. We have to look at the need for a northern heritage fund, which would provide the investment funds we need to support public and private as well as perhaps co-operative community-based enterprises that are so important to developing those new jobs and the balanced economy we all want for northern Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: In recognizing the member for Brantford, I understand there is an agreement that rotation will go counterclockwise.

Mr. Gillies: So I understand.

I have to echo the words of the member for Sault Ste. Marie. While I am pleased to participate in the debate, I am sorry it has to take place at all.

I say to the member and to the people of Sault Ste. Marie, I join this debate as somebody who has experienced the devastating effects of high rates of unemployment and layoffs in a small industrial city. During the recession not so very long ago, my riding of Brantford was hit, if not as hard as the Sault is today, pretty darned close to it, with unemployment rates running to the 20 per cent level and some of our largest industries laying off workers and closing down. I am well aware from bitter personal experience of the terrible, dislocating effect this has on a community, its people and the family life of a community such as the Sault.

As I said during question period when I was questioning the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the number of layoffs in the province in the early months of this year is up by 65 per cent over the same months in 1985. In Sault Ste. Marie, if we take January and February as an example, layoffs are up by 450 per cent this year over last.

While I join in the pleasure I am sure all members feel that our employment rate province-wide has dropped in the past year and that new jobs are being generated, I feel the contrast between these two sets of statistics points out very dramatically the plight of many older workers who are laid off or displaced from the labour force because of industrial adjustment. These are the people who find it most difficult to find new jobs.

I came from a family where my father lost his job of long standing in his late 50s. I know what it is like for a man or a woman of that age to try to find other employment; not just employment remotely suitable to his or her skills, abilities and interests but suitable industrial employment at all. This will be the fate of many men and women in Sault Ste. Marie.

The member for Sault Ste. Marie mentioned the unemployment rate experienced in that community. My best estimate is that it is now between 18 per cent and 20 per cent. While the member for Sault Ste. Marie earlier in the day mentioned the March unemployment insurance claimants for his community—7,400 approximately—I am sure he will be most distressed to know that as of April 18 it has gone up to 8,020. Thus, not only is there a serious problem in terms of the number of unemployed, the number of people claiming, but also the trend is in entirely the wrong direction: upwards.

High rates of unemployment and layoffs, in my own experience, place a tremendous strain on a number of other services within the community. They place a strain, obviously, on unemployment insurance delivery and on the welfare system, but also on a number of things that one may not think of as readily, such as housing. People are losing their homes. People are unable to carry their mortgages and are being forced into the rental market to house their families. The vacancy rate in rental housing in Sault Ste. Marie right now is 0.8 per cent, less than one per cent.

The Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) recently announced 6,700 nonprofit and co-op housing units for the province for 1986. Sault Ste. Marie received 25 of those. The honourable member mentioned earlier his concern that perhaps some northern communities are not benefiting in proportion to other parts of the province in receipt of some of the services the province has to offer. Certainly that is the case with this co-operative housing: 25 units, at a time when a number of people are going to be looking for affordable housing.

Unless something is done, the effects in the member's community will be felt in housing, the education system and the health system. The effects of unemployment are very hard on an unemployed person. The experience in my community during the height of the recession was that it was placing a greater strain on our health system, on those services that people need to keep them both physically and mentally healthy—all of this at a time when the tax base of

the community to provide these services is being affected adversely.

These are some of the problems. As was said earlier, perhaps what can come out of a debate like this are some positive suggestions about what can be done and what should be done right now in Sault Ste. Marie to help some of these people.

4:10 p.m.

I can make a couple of suggestions. I say first of all, directly to the members in the Sault Ste. Marie area, that one mechanism we found very useful in Brant county during the recession was what we called our trilevel conference, a monthly meeting of the elected heads of the municipalities in the area and of the federal and provincial members. They all got together, put aside partisan considerations for a time and pooled their resources, access and knowledge to get every possible benefit for that community, whether it was federal or provincial grants, loan possibilities and so on. We found that extremely useful.

Faced with this kind of dislocation, a community has to be extremely aggressive in pursuit of every possible opportunity. I am sure Sault Ste. Marie is designated under the federal industrial and regional development program; at least I hope it is. They should be lobbying very aggressively through their federal members to get assistance, new types of industry and new types of development into the area.

We have to remember that when we talk about a layoff of 1,500 industrial workers in a community, the spillover effect on the community is much greater than that. When we take the service-related jobs and other types of employment that depend on the operation of Algoma, we are talking about an effect on the community of perhaps 4,500 lost jobs. Many of the suppliers to that large company and many other service-related industries in the community will be adversely affected and will have to lay people off or close down.

The chairman of Algoma, Mr. Macnamara, has hinted he may be looking for concessions from the union when Algoma and Local 2251 of the United Steelworkers sit down and negotiate a new contract. He has not indicated what concessions he may be looking for. However, we should make note of the response of Dennis Abernot, president of the union local, who said, "We know that Algoma management has decided to ignore a recommendation of its own hired consultant to start cleaning out at the top." The suggestion is on the floor—it is in the public

domain—that Algoma should have been doing things in its own house before it resorted to the drastic action it is undertaking.

I have a couple of other suggestions. My colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) mentioned earlier that we believe the legislation our previous government introduced in 1981 to allow for severance pay in the case of layoffs should be amended. There is a loophole of which the members are well aware; it has to be closed to allow more displaced workers to benefit from that fund.

As has been stated by a number of people and certainly by specialists in the field of labour relations, we believe the company should be looking at any number of rationalizations, including cutting back on overtime, using attrition and early retirement to avoid layoffs and consulting employees to see whether they have any interest in job-sharing. A variety of educational leave programs could be offered, such as unpaid leave of absence with a guaranteed job at the end of it, to see whether there are things that can be done to reduce the strain on the company while at the same time trying to keep as many people as possible employed.

Those are a few suggestions of what the government could be undertaking now to help the people of Sault Ste. Marie. I will close by saying that it is not enough to muse about the year 2001 and it is not enough for the Premier to say he is looking at all the options. I say to the members of the government party, these people need help and they need it now.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: What I heard at the end by my friend the member for Brantford amused me, but to talk about the past is of no use. I have lived in the north all my life. I know how much it suffered under the previous government, and the honourable member should have the guts to say it. He talked about housing, about the 25 units they are talking about. In the Hearst area they waited for that for four years under his government. The last co-operative housing we made an application for with all the money and all the plans was in 1981 and we never got an answer from the previous government. The member should watch what he is saying about the north.

All the members of this Legislature agree the situation at Algoma is serious. We are taking it seriously. We hope and expect the municipalities, the service industries, the company and its workers will take it very seriously as well, because all will have a major part to play.

I am told by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) that the activities

being undertaken by Algoma are consistent with what many other steel producers in Canada, the United States and elsewhere are doing. The pressure of world markets has taken a heavy toll on northern Ontario's basic industries, whether steel, nickel, pulp and paper or forestry. The competition is fierce. There is no hope that this competition will fade away. In fact, it will become even fiercer.

We have to become more competitive to save jobs. To become more competitive we need to become more productive; at times that means fewer jobs to produce the same value of output. We need dedication to a common purpose and an aggressive, pragmatic search for solutions. All involved—companies, workers, governments and ourselves—will have to be flexible and work together. It is tempting to look for scapegoats, to ask ourselves, for instance, why greater efforts were not made in the past to diversify the economy of Sault Ste. Marie and its region in northern Ontario. This is not very productive. The challenge now is to search for solutions.

This is the second big employment blow for Sault Ste. Marie since 1981, when 4,000 jobs were trimmed by Algoma Steel. However, it is fair to say people in Sault Ste. Marie were optimistic that at least some of those laid off might be recalled. Although 4,000 workers were let go, 9,000 were still at work. With this second blow, Sault Ste. Marie realizes action must be taken. This action must address the need to make Algoma a viable company that is able to compete over the longer run. It must also address the need to provide Sault Ste. Marie with other economic support.

One of my honourable friends said that in the throne speech there was nothing about industry, yet when the Premier spoke about bolstering primary industry, I am sure he meant lumbering, pulp and paper, mining and other industries. He did not go into detail because there are other programs already in place. We could not write a throne speech at the same time as making a program for the north.

It makes me angry when the member for Nipissing laughs at the people who went to Sweden. Maybe he is jealous because he did not go. I did not put him on the committee because it was too political; I put somebody else from the north on the committee who wanted to work. Members should observe what he said about people who were going to see what was going on in other countries.

As for Wawa, we must all act now to ensure that its principal support—the iron ore division of

Algoma Steel—continues to operate for as long as possible. I am having a number of meetings with Algoma Steel concerning its recent announcement about the iron ore division's operations in Wawa. I have been assured that while some production cuts are likely, no final decision beyond that has been made. The company has pledged its full co-operation.

The problems faced by Wawa are similar to those affecting several single-industry towns in the north. The Committee on Resource-Dependent Communities will have some ideas in its upcoming report that will help us to deal with such situations. In the meantime, I will locate one of my ministry's development economists in Wawa to reinforce our ability to help the community respond to the challenge.

I am, as are all members of this House, concerned about the welfare of those individuals who will lose their jobs as a result of these actions. Officials of various ministries, including the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, have met with elected officials and others in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa to determine the full impact of these activities and to determine what can be done.

4:20 p.m.

Officials of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology met last week with senior officials of the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and agreed to co-operate in developing programs to support the local economy. My officials met with Mayor Fratesi of Sault Ste. Marie on April 16, the day of Algoma's latest announcement. They discussed several economic development proposals and assured the mayor of our full co-operation. I assure my friend from Sault Ste. Marie of this too. It was clear from that meeting and others I have had that the municipality is becoming much more aggressive in its search for new industry. This is a very welcome development.

I met with Peter Nixon, president of Algoma Steel, on April 18. He assured me of his company's full co-operation in the search for a solution. He said the company has no option but to go to continuous casting at the Sault operation if it is to remain competitive and financially viable. This will mean the loss of a substantial number of jobs, but will make more secure the jobs of those who remain. That is what I was told.

With respect to the Wawa operations, Mr. Nixon confirmed that there would be some reduction, but that no decision had been taken about the longer-term future of the mining

operation. He did stress that costs would have to be cut to make the facility more competitive with other sources. My people will be there to discuss what he meant by those cuts.

I told him we would work with him to find ways to reduce costs in a way that is fair to all—we already have done that with other iron ore companies—and protect for as long as possible the economy of Wawa. Obviously, the future of the Algoma Central Railway is closely tied to the mine and we shall be talking to the railway officials next week.

My colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) and a group of deputy ministers met again on April 22 with Mr. Nixon. It was originally proposed to have this trip that we are to make next week with the deputy ministers take place this week, but we were informed that the union executive would not be available to meet because of the Canadian Labour Congress convention. That trip is now scheduled for May 5, 6 and 7.

As preliminary measures and in order to get the ball rolling, we have initiated a number of interim steps. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) has instructed all ministries to re-examine their existing programs, both long-term and short-term, and to assist Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa whenever possible on a priority basis. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology will take steps to establish a Northern Ontario Development Corp. office in Sault Ste. Marie and to ensure that all assistance possible is available to new business enterprises.

The Ontario government will co-ordinate and sponsor a northern regional development conference in the Sault to bring interested domestic and foreign investors to the north so that they can examine potential northern investment opportunities on a first-hand basis. The first step is for everyone concerned to look at the challenge with a sense of realism and see what role he can play. We are also assessing whether there are mineral, forest or tourist projects that might be accelerated.

In this search for a solution, I shall rely heavily on the advice of the Northern Development Council that will be set up as soon as I have received nominations for membership from the municipalities and associations in the region.

I believe it is important that everyone in the House appreciate the situation in these two northern communities. They are preparing themselves to work together with local governments and ourselves. As a member of this Legislature, I think we have to work together to try to find

solutions, not only to those two problems of Wawa and the Sault, but for all northern Ontario.

These are the attitudes, efforts and commitments of a dedicated group that has come to terms with its situation—I am talking about the Sault because I met with the Sault a few weeks ago—and has the will to build a new future. We are committed to working with them to create this new future.

To finish, I would like to say that my ministry is open and we are going to work. On Wednesday I shall be going up to Ear Falls. I shall stop in Wawa on the way through and try to meet with the union and the town officials to announce what I am saying here to start the ball rolling. In this area of Wawa, I think there is a big possibility for other mines and we will do our utmost to change the programs to accelerate mining in this area.

Mr. Rae: I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this debate, although like other members I wish it were on a different topic.

I can remember my first visit to the Sault when I was working in the legal department of the national office of the United Steelworkers of America back in the early 1970s.

Mr. Barlow: Before he was a Queen's counsel.

Mr. Rae: The member for Cambridge says it was before I was a Queen's counsel. That is true; it was before I was a Queen's counsel.

I have made many visits to the town since then. I well recall the last trip I made prior to becoming leader because it was in 1981. By virtue of my experiences across southern Ontario, I gave a speech on the industrial changes that were taking place and the devastation that we saw in Windsor and in other towns. At the end of the speech a number of people came up to me and said: "I do not know why you are so worried. Steel is going great guns. The company has told us we will be going flat out and opening up new investments. Our employment situation here is very bright." Three weeks later, in 1981-82, the company began to announce the major layoffs and the major changes that have done so much to devastate the economy of the Sault.

This debate and the issue itself allow us to focus on a couple of matters that are quite fundamental to what is taking place in this province.

The first issue I would like to raise, because it is one we have to address, is the precise obligation of a company in this regard. The Algoma Steel Corp. is 61 per cent owned by Canadian Pacific, which is one of these large holding companies that have such a stranglehold

on our economy in general. That kind of structure of ownership makes it tougher for us to get the accountability we would like.

The Algoma Steel Corp. takes great pride in the fact that its head office is in the Sault and that its president, Mr. Nixon, is a third-generation northerner. His father is a former Liberal member of Parliament for the district of Algoma in the federal House of Commons, as I am sure the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) knows. Mr. Nixon himself is not entirely unfamiliar with the workings of politics.

It is fair to say that this Legislature and the community of Sault Ste. Marie do not have the legal means to question the real owners of the steel company to determine what options were available to them and why they took the decisions they did.

With respect to corporate accountability, I do not think it is unfair to say that the minister and I had a very brief conversation in the restaurant about 10 days before the company's announcement, because we had both been hearing rumours. I asked the minister, "What have you heard about Algoma Steel?" He said, "I do not know, but I am worried." I said, "I am worried too." I am sure the minister did not have any more information than that at the time, and I know I did not have any more information than that at the time.

I question our framework of public accountability and legislation, which puts us as legislators in the position of receiving a bottom-line statement from the company that is made to the shareholders of the company. Basically, Algoma Steel is telling CP at the meeting held at the end of April, "This is the situation; this is what is happening," and we are left like so many brush-fire operators, running around trying to put out the fires.

The minister says: "I will set up an office here. We will have a special meeting and we will pull together a conference. We will hustle around and do the best we can." The minister talks to people, the deputy ministers go off and talk to people and the public sector is left carrying the can; picking up the pieces.

It is time we as a Legislature recognized that there is something very wrong with a system of accountability and a system of industrial planning in this province whereby an announcement of this magnitude is made and is simply dropped in the lap of the public sector, in the laps of everybody in government and in the community and, yes, in the laps of the workers themselves.

Then we all have to pick up the pieces and ask what can be done.

4:30 p.m.

When I went to see Mr. Nixon last week, accompanied by my two colleagues the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom), I said to him, "We want to set up a legislative committee." He said, "I do not think it is appropriate for legislators to be second-guessing a private, corporate decision."

My response to that is that there are no more private decisions, in that sense, in an economy of this scale and size. A decision taken by a company whose shares are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, which is a company that has a degree of public accountability, is not just a private decision; it is a public decision in the sense that it has an enormous impact on the community.

Despite the reluctance of the president of the company, who said he was prepared to meet with deputy ministers but had some problem handling the prospect of a legislative committee, I want to tell the House that today our members have referred the matter of this question to the standing committee on resources development. We intend to enforce a degree of accountability with respect to this decision.

We have to bring to an end the day when a company in this province can make a decision of such magnitude and say, "I do not want some politician second-guessing me." We are the ones who end up carrying the can. I do not want to hear a lecture on free enterprise from those who have both hands out and pockets out waiting for tax concessions and every other type of concession from the public sector, and who then turn around and say, "We do not want to be accountable to the public for how the money is spent." It is time that ended.

Second, I want to talk very briefly about alternatives. It is not simply a question of all the things the minister is trying to do. No one is criticizing anybody's goodwill here. It is question of recognizing that we are in danger of seeing two very different economies emerging in this province: a southern economy, largely service-based, which has witnessed extraordinary growth in the past number of months, indeed in the past couple of years, and which has been buoyant—it has been difficult, but it has been buoyant—and another economy, the economy of the north.

Today, we are seeing two Ontarios grow: an Ontario that knows security, innovation and

change, and an Ontario that does not. That is profoundly disturbing to this House and to members of our party. The member over there may be lonely, but if he were over here he would not because we are all together in this battle to see that the north gets not simply its share, but also the infusion of capital—public capital or capital generated from the community, if need be—to generate the jobs that have to be there in northern Ontario to maintain an economy that is just and universal. It would be useful for members to understand just how serious this discrepancy between north and south is becoming.

In my travels across the north, I saw no industry that had a sense of security. Two years ago I went into a high school in Wawa with the member for Algoma and asked the kids in grade 13, "How many of you think you are going to be here in five years' time?" One person put up his hand. That was one person out of a high school. How would any of us feel if in southern Ontario we each went into our constituencies and asked, "How many of you think you are going to be in Toronto in five years' time?" and only one person put up his hand but the others said, "We are all going down to Houston, the United States or Chicago"? We would recognize what was taking place. That is what is happening in the north.

What we have to develop, and what our party is developing—and, if I may say so, has developed—is the sense of a need for an alternative strategy. It will have to be an interventionist strategy because the idea that the private sector will do it on its own is just a dream. Anybody who has looked at the north knows that. We can talk all we want about small business, tourism and all those things, but the reality is that if we are going to create jobs, then good, creative use of public capital is going to have to take place. There is no other way.

The experiences of Sweden, Norway, Finland and every part of the industrialized world that has a resource-based north are the same. The only way we can make it work is if government decides that is the way it will be. If we need a teaching hospital in the north, we shall put one in the north. If we need an engineering school in the north, we shall put one in the north. It will not happen if we leave it to the private sector. It has not happened and it will not happen unless we change it and turn it around.

Mr. Brandt: Along with other members who have spoken on this issue already, I find some difficulty in having to deal with the subject that strikes at the hearts of so many people who have suffered from the most recent layoffs in Sault

Ste. Marie, people who now number in the thousands. The very recent announcement stated some 1,500 individuals will be directly affected by the cutback in the staff who will be operating that mill. We know the harsh statistics and the impact on the lives of those people who will be laid off. It is a very difficult time for them.

During the course of the few moments I have in this debate, I want to share some positive thoughts I have on how we might address the problems of the Sault and other communities that are suffering from high levels of unemployment, as well as some comments and suggestions to the government.

The Sault is not the only problem that is before us today in this debate. Sudbury has suffered from this type of situation for a great many years.

My own community of Sarnia, I might add, was covered by the leader of the third party when he indicated that most of southern Ontario was benefiting from a very substantial period of growth and new employment opportunities. Sarnia, along with Brantford, Woodstock, the home riding of our esteemed Speaker and many other places I could mention, are communities that are not receiving the full benefits of the present boom.

In many instances, a common thread runs through the communities that are suffering as Sault Ste. Marie is suffering at the moment, and that is, they are for whatever reason too dependent on one industry in particular or on a group of industries that have their focus directed on a single product or a very limited number of products.

Sault Ste. Marie is currently experiencing something in the order of 20 per cent unemployment. That is totally unacceptable and we all realize that. I do not criticize the government for saying that—and I hope the Minister of Northern Development and Mines does not leave at this point, because I have some comments that I want him to hear when I can get to them in my address.

I have noted with some interest that when we have talked about unemployment, about housing problems and other difficulties that we all try to come to grips with as members of this Legislative Assembly, in recent days the government has been very quick to take credit for the fact that there have been something like 180,000 new jobs created during the past year or so.

Mr. Wildman: Not in the north.

Mr. Brandt: That is absolutely correct. My friend says, "Not in the north." I say without hesitation that by any definition there probably has been a net job loss in the north. All of the

growth and development has occurred in the southern part of Ontario. When the leader of the third party spoke on this he was quite correct in identifying that as a current phenomenon.

I asked myself how the government would have the nerve—and I address this to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines—to take all the credit for all the jobs that have been created and then put the blame on those who previously were in government for all the problems that relate to unemployment in the north, lack of hospital beds, lack of subsidized housing and all of the other things.

In other words, in that short time, the government has been able to get the economy moving, and I take my hat off to it and to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I know the effort the people on that side of the House have put into job creation; I say that with tongue in cheek because the efforts they have made with respect to job creation in this province have been very minimal, other than to take on and continue with programs that were started by another government at another time.

If they are going to take credit for all of the good things that have happened during of the past year, they also have to suffer the consequences of what is going on in Sault Ste. Marie. It is no longer enough to talk about the committees they are going to set up, or the discussions they are going to have, or the programs, the plans and the great ideas that are going to come forth.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: What did the Conservative Party do for 40 years? It did nothing for the north.

Mr. Brandt: During the last election, they indicated they had the answer to one-industry towns.

4:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Oui, monsieur, your party did nothing for the north for 40 years.

Mr. Brandt: He was the one who said they had the answer. During the last year, he has not had an answer to any of the unemployment problems in the northern part of this province. He has not come up with one substantive suggestion other than to stand up and talk about what he might do and about might unfold in the future.

The great secrecy surrounding this baffles me. It baffles me beyond belief. I see the Minister of Northern Development and Mines standing up to take issue with some of the efforts of our government in the north, but I have yet to see him come up with one plan that even comes close to

some of our efforts during the time we were in government.

The minister has to come to grips with this situation; in fact, the two ministers responsible for job creation—the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology—have to come to grips with this situation. They have to look very seriously at programs that can bring some immediate short-term relief to Sault Ste. Marie and at long-term programs for industrial diversification and expansion in those parts of Ontario that require dependency on more than one industry.

I want to be positive in my comments. I know the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) would like me to be positive in my comments, and I want to be. As a government, his party could bring in more flexible retraining programs that recognize there are people in all age groups who are suffering from the layoffs at Algoma. More flexible retraining programs would address at least part of those problems. Relocation assistance should be provided to those workers who have a trade or a level of expertise that could be used in some other part of Ontario, where jobs are available. In his discussions with his committees, the minister could take a look at that suggestion.

As well, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology should make a much more substantive effort to make grants, levels of assistance, loans and programs available to communities such as Sault Ste. Marie. I have heard statements by the mayor of that city that I agree with entirely. The reliance on one large industry is really a thing of the past.

The most recent statistics I have seen indicate there has been a net job loss of 15 per cent across the board in all large industries in Ontario over the past three or four years. All new jobs in Ontario are today being created by small enterprises. There is no reason for the job loss. It does not take huge amounts of money to start planting the seed for some of the industries that might make sense for the Sault or for Sudbury. Those industries have to be the type that are not heavy on the transportation side, because transportation costs would make them uncompetitive.

We could start to look very carefully at the industries that make sense for those areas. The work force has a level of expertise that one would hope could be translated into a new employment opportunity. We can marry those concepts. Small industries, perhaps the tool and die industry or many others, might be looked at.

These industries would be specifically tailored to those regions, and the government would give substantive grants, subsidies and loans.

Here is where I part company with my friends in the third party. Those government loans, grants and subsidies are quite appropriate, but I want to see those industries run only by the private sector. Too frequently, government-operated activities end in failure because they are not operated under the normal rules of doing business.

We can identify the markets that those industries might be able to penetrate and the types of opportunities there could be. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology has an obligation to work with his colleague the Minister of Northern Development and Mines to focus specifically on those problems and come up with realistic solutions to the very real difficulties those areas are facing.

In many instances, the people we are talking about in Sault Ste. Marie, as my friends know, have never been unemployed before. This is their first experience with unemployment. They may have suffered from short-term layoffs or from job dislocation for a short time, but permanent layoffs are a new experience. These people need all the assistance they can get in order to come to grips with this new reality.

They need a more sympathetic, immediate, direct and focused response from the government, which sat over there through an entire election and said: "We have the answer to northern problems. We know how to diversify industry. We know how to create more jobs in the north. We know how to end the dependency of one-industry towns." I am looking for the answers the government has to those questions because, up until now, its grade is a D minus.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I welcome this opportunity to discuss the current situation facing our steel industry and, in particular, the Algoma Steel Corp. We are very aware of the importance the steel industry plays in Canada and Ontario. Approximately 80 per cent of the Canadian steel industry is located within this province; numerous cities and towns, whether they be mining towns or steelmaking towns, depend on our steel industry.

Our steel industry, along with the entire North American steel industry, has had a particularly rough period during the past few years. The industry has only partially recovered from the sharp decline of 1982. Despite this rough road they have had to travel, the major steel producers in Ontario have continued to make large capital

investments in their facilities, expand and upgrade, where necessary, and retrain their people.

Our steel industry is of sufficient size to be important in its own right. It is also important as a seller of its products to other manufacturing industries. There are in excess of 700,000 people employed in manufacturing industries across Canada who depend upon steel to make their products. The quality of these products is determined to a substantial extent by the quality of the steel to which they have access.

In most cases, this steel is Canadian made. The Canadian steel industry is considered to be a quality producer by customers in Canada, the United States, Europe and elsewhere. One of the most important markets for steel products in Canada is the automotive industry. The Ontario government has taken considerable initiatives to attract automotive and related investment that will provide additional markets for our steel manufacturers.

The Canadian steel market is very significant. Many steel companies from around the world compete in our domestic market. At the same time, the Canadian steel industry depends upon export markets to keep its mills fully utilized.

The Ontario government is deeply concerned over the international trade difficulties facing the Ontario steel industry. We have been working closely with the industry and the federal government to resolve the two major trade difficulties currently facing the steel companies. First, there is the potential that steel exports to the United States markets from overseas suppliers may now be diverted into Canada as a result of US market access restraints. Any surge in injurious steel imports can have negative consequences for Ontario in terms of job-loss community impacts. The Canadian market must not be used as a dumping ground for offshore steel exports, nor must it be used as a back door to the US market.

Second, we have a continuing concern with regard to possible reduced market access for Canadian steel to US markets. Canadian steel exporters are fair traders who are well aware of the need to exercise prudence with respect to sales in the US market. However, some US interests are lobbying to restrict Canadian imports. They appear not to be fully aware of the mutual benefits of an integrated Canada-US steel market.

With regard to the first issue, the steel industry has formally asked the government of Canada to direct the Canadian import tribunal to conduct an immediate review of the state of the steel industry

in relation to offshore imports. It is our hope that this assessment can be made as rapidly as possible, should serious injury be found in the import permit system, to strengthen the trade complaint system where it may be necessary.

The Premier is writing to the Prime Minister to outline our position on this issue and to indicate support for the steel industry. The Ontario government is continuing discussions with the steel industry officials to support their efforts to counter the misinformation of US protectionists. We are working with the industry to identify US allies who recognize that US import restrictions on Canadian steel would have adverse effects on the United States as well as on Canada.

Many key US industries are dependent on the maintenance of access to competitive Canadian steel supplies. Canadian steel firms are also major purchasers of US coal, machinery and other items.

Further, any significant restrictions of Canadian steel exports to the US could ultimately jeopardize the vitality of Ontario as a major purchaser of other US goods and services.

4:50 p.m.

It is important also to stress that there is a worldwide decline in the demand for steel pipe. This is a direct result of the drop in energy prices and the cancellation of many energy-related development projects. Algoma is a major producer of steel pipe products. This is clearly an issue beyond the control of Algoma or the government of Ontario. It stems from volatility in the international oil market.

There can be no quick-fix solutions to problems of this nature, but I am convinced that with a concentrated joint effort we can find appropriate actions to bolster the recovery of the region. This government is deeply concerned about the 1,500 layoffs announced recently by Algoma. Sadly, this is not the first time there have been job losses at the company. In fact, the Canadian work force at Algoma has fallen from more than 12,000 in 1981 to about 8,000 today.

Upon learning of Algoma's plans, the government responded immediately. The Premier met with the industry to review its situation and I met with the senior management of Algoma. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology will take steps to establish a Northern Ontario Development Corp. office in Sault Ste. Marie, as mentioned previously by the minister. This will ensure that all assistance possible is available to new businesses and enterprises.

A working group of deputy ministers was established to work with the company, the union

and the communities involved, specifically in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. Staff of MITT are working closely with the Sault Ste. Marie business community in the creation of an economic development corporation. This corporation has a mandate to promote industrial and commercial development. It will also assist established businesses to grow. The corporation has the ability to offer assistance to the extent of providing capital and in return receive equity participation. Business leaders in the community will serve on the board of directors.

The government believes in consulting with the people affected to solve problems. Solutions will no longer be imposed from Queen's Park. We will work together in a consultative framework to find innovative answers.

Mr. Mackenzie: I cannot help but wonder what solutions we have ever imposed from Queen's Park in terms of our unemployed. The steel cutbacks in the Sault are going to be devastating to that town, as they probably will be to the town of Wawa as well. I cannot help but think of the number of times in the 10 1/2 years I have been in this house that my colleagues—I think of speeches by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), Bud Germa when he was here and others—have raised time and time again the pain suffered by northern towns when mines and plants close, the one-industry towns that seem to affect the north even more than we experience in the south.

The closures are usually a result of market manipulation or corporate rationalization. One thing is clear every single time it happens; there has been one constant. With a mine or plant closing, the people who lose the most are the workers. They lose their income now. They lose the value of their pensions in terms of their future. A substantial number of families suffer severe social consequences. Workers suffer and their community suffers. Because of a reduced tax base and an increased welfare case load, the viability of the community is soon put into serious jeopardy.

Another constant over the years I have been in this House is the number of people who ask every time we have a situation such as we are now facing in the Sault: "Why do we not have some kind of industrial strategy? Why do we not do any real economic planning in this country of ours?" We heard it again in the course of the free trade talks we have just gone through. Supporters as

well as opponents have said that one of the things we are missing in this province and this country is any real economic planning or any industrial strategy for the future of our province.

Without it, we are staggering from crisis to crisis. With no real planning, the areas that are hit the worst are our resource industries and the single-industry towns where one industry dominates. Why do we not have a plan that says we should process our resources in Ontario? It is a call I have also heard many times from my colleagues, usually the loudest and usually with some sympathy when we have another crisis such as we now are experiencing in the Sault. Neither the previous government, nor so far as I can see this government is moving in that direction at all.

Why do we not have a serious plan that takes a look at import replacement? What the heck happens when a family is in trouble? One of the first things it does is to look at what it can do without or what it can make or produce on its own, for itself, or how it can handle the needs within the family.

What is wrong with this kind of import replacement plan, which can provide more jobs and certainly cut some of the value-added imports in the value-added manufacturing sector, where this country has a deficit? Why do we not have earlier information concerning corporate plans and cutbacks? It is not private information any more. I think my leader was dead on when he said that we have to go to the public with the plans of our major companies and our major resource industries in Ontario today, because it is the only way we can take a look at the proper planning, the proper retraining, the proper redevelopment of other sectors of the economy for that given town or area. We do not have it. We have no public justification procedure in place either, which this party has called for for a long time. It is something we seriously need.

In the steel industry itself, we are probably going to see all of the major steel towns affected. I happen to know we are not finished with the corporate rationalization at Stelco. We are going to see probably a further 1,200 workers lost in the Stelco plant during the next three or four years. Stelco wants concessions in terms of its ability to be flexible. I understand its arguments, but I do not see the quid pro quo, which would be to say: "We are not going to use the kind of overtime hours we are using. We are going to look seriously at enhanced programs of early retirement. We are going to look seriously at how we distribute some of the benefits of our society."

Why are we not coming to grips with the fact that the production of goods in this country of ours is not a problem? Most people have begun to recognize that in the past few years. The problem really is the distribution of the benefits of that production and the control of it. This simply means that we have to start spreading some of the benefits of our really fantastic capability to produce in this country a little better so that some of the workers get some of the benefit instead of always being the losers in another crisis or another plant or industry shutdown.

We have to take a serious look at the hours of work so that we do not constantly get letters—I am sure others are getting them, as I am getting them—about the kind of overtime hours that are being worked today. We should take a serious look at lengthy paid retraining and providing sabbaticals for workers as well as for somebody in a teaching profession. We should look at statutory holidays and at early retirement.

When we do so, we should not pull some of the mean-spirited things such as we saw with the feds recently in taking any retirement benefits into consideration in unemployment insurance payments, pension benefits or early retirement benefits, a practice that really penalizes workers in their efforts to take early retirement. These are the kinds of things that are mean-spirited and that take away from some moves we can make to spread around some of the benefits of our ability to produce today.

We have simply got to start coming to grips in this province, if we are serious, with ways and means to say that the people, the workers involved and their communities are part of the bottom line and not the corporate profit and loss statement.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I cannot think of a more appropriate reason to set aside the business of the House than the issue we are talking about today. I want to thank the member for Sault Ste. Marie for putting the motion forward. It is most appropriate.

I would like to speak to the issue in a personal way and then talk about some of the things the government is doing and will do. With other members, we hope to resolve some of the problems of the one-industry towns, most particularly those in the north.

5 p.m.

I do not know how many people here realize just how good and how competitive the steelworkers are in Canada, particularly in Ontario. They are among the best in the world, given the opportunity to work. The problem often arises

about what markets do for them and about other influences that are brought to bear. Many people here are fully aware that the competition is so good the Americans look with some trepidation at competing with our steelworkers here, so they put up barriers that might impede our trade with the US in this field.

I do not think there are many people here who know that the first continuous casting in all the world took place right in Welland, Ontario. It was a major breakthrough in that industry. We are very proud of that down in our area, but that kind of initiative has taken place among all the steelmakers in this country, and they are among the very best.

Taking that into account, what can we do? I suppose I should comment on the initiatives of the government. In order to bring that into perspective, I have to bring forward some of the comments that were made by a former leader of those people who now sit in the opposition benches, one Premier Davis, when a question was raised by one of the members who is here today, the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), in relation to the problems of Stelco, which was facing a downturn in the industry. I want to share with members the response from the then Premier that day.

The member for Hamilton East wanted to know what the future was for Stelco's Hilton works, which was going to face a considerable number of layoffs. This was the response he got:

"I have expressed the concerns of this government on a number of occasions with respect to the steel industry. It is not confined to Stelco; it applies also to Dofasco and Algoma Steel where, because of the market situation both here in Canada and to a very great extent in the United States, the steel industry is facing some serious difficulties."

He went on to anticipate the supplementary from the member in this way:

"He is going to ask what the government is going to do about Stelco, Dofasco and Algoma. I will be very frank with him. I cannot think of any real relevant provincial initiative that is going to give impetus to the steel market." Then he went on to say: "I shall be very frank with the member. It is not a matter over which this government has any real measure of control."

I do not want the honourable members here today, or the people in the Sault, to take any consolation in that response. I want to diffuse some of the pressures that are being brought to bear by the official opposition, which would try to direct this new government into doing

something in an area where the leader of the former government himself agreed that very little or nothing could be done.

Having said that, I want to go forward with what might be some constructive options that we might take in the windup. But in between I want to say this is not an issue in isolation. What we have is something that impacts right across Canada. It did not really start here; it started in the Middle East, where those nations that were producing tremendous amounts of oil decided that if they flooded the market at cheap prices, they would put a lot of our producers out of business: they would put that \$20-a-barrel oil sands project out of business; they would put frontier drilling out of business; they would stop us from doing the sorts of things that use tremendous amounts of pipe from Algoma Steel. One of the major turndowns in Algoma was because of the western situation and the circumstances relating to moving forward in those fields.

The previous federal government had a national energy program. It was putting a lot of money into it, and that industry was going quite well. The new government down there decided it was going to deregulate and let the marketplace do its thing, and that is exactly what is happening now. The marketplace is doing its thing and it is doing it to the people in Sault Ste. Marie. The fact of the matter is that we must have help from the federal government; we must have a real initiative taken in going forward with frontier drilling and with all the things that lead to exploration that take a great deal of pipe and all kinds of manufactured goods from this province.

I went out west to talk to Mr. Zaozirny, the Minister of Energy for Alberta. I told him I was there as a Canadian and not as someone who wanted to see his industry depressed to the point where not only it will suffer in the short term but all of Canada will suffer in the long term.

While we can do some things here in Ontario, we need a federal government that is going to take the initiative and not go around us, as it did with the steel company in Prince Edward Island that became so competitive with the company in Sault Ste. Marie. The federal government should not pick spots to bolster an industry that takes away from another industry in another part of Canada.

Now the federal government is talking about a pulp mill in Quebec, when our pulp mills are reaching a point of competition that makes it difficult for us to sell our pulp here. It does not augur well when the federal government picks

one part of Canada to inject funds into and hurts companies in other parts of the country.

The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) suggested the three levels of government should participate in the kind of dialogue that would be helpful; that is a very constructive way to go.

Our Premier has charged all cabinet ministers in this government to take initiatives in order to see what can be done in other industries, such as forestry, small hydraulic generation or tourism. These initiatives would be helpful to parts of the province that have this kind of turnaround. He has done it in a very meaningful way: \$100 million has been put into the northern development fund. I am sure members are going to see the results of that.

Our Premier has charged us with the responsibility to see what can be done and to do something very quickly. I am sure that is going to have an effect on those people in and around Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and the other places that are affected. It goes without saying that the initiatives will require the co-operation and help of all members of the Legislature, regardless of party alliance. We are looking for members of the Legislature to be helpful in any way they can in order to do things to help that economy and keep people working in that part of Ontario.

It was very appropriate for the member for Sault Ste. Marie to bring forward this motion. We support it. This government is going to do everything in its power to see what can be done to help in the circumstance that we all feel very badly about.

Mr. Foulds: I rise to join in the debate and I do so with a sense of frustration and anger that I cannot fully express. We have just heard a minister of the crown say he supports the emergency motion, he feels badly about the situation, and the government will do everything within its power to help.

The minister and all his colleagues should know this debate is about power. It is about the power of the people, and not only the people of northern Ontario; it is the power of the people of this province as expressed through its government.

The debate is also about whether that government has the courage to do two things: first, to look to the future in protecting the jobs, rights and investments of the people of northern Ontario; and second, to take the legislative power that is necessary to control the corporations that have made their money and their investment from the people, riches and resources of northern Ontario, and are now abandoning them.

5:10 p.m.

It is all very well for the minister, his colleagues and the Premier to express their concern as good Liberals and to say they support the motion, but they are the government and they had darned well better do something and do something fast, because we in northern Ontario are facing a crisis in our economy. It is not nearly good enough to say: "This is part of the international crisis. This is part of a national crisis. This is part of a provincial crisis."

What we are seeing today is a step that could be devastating to the economy of Sault Ste. Marie, and my colleague the member for Algoma will be talking about the devastating effect on the one-industry town of Wawa.

This is nothing new. Over the last 10 years we have seen an attack on the economy of the resources and the resource-based industries in northern Ontario. We had the shutdown of Menora Mines in 1978. We had the shutdown of the Steep Rock iron mine in Atikokan in 1978-79. We had the shutdown of the National Steel Corp., Hanna Mining, at Capreol in 1979. We had the Caland Ore shutdown in Atikokan in 1979-80. We had the shutdown of Inco's iron ore recovery plant at Capreol in 1980. We had the termination of the Steep Rock Resources Bending Lake development in northwestern Ontario in 1983. We had the shutdown of the Griffith Mine at Ear Falls just recently, and we had the shutdown of the Shebandowan mine of Inco in northwestern Ontario on January 27, 1978.

I will speak for a moment about the Griffith Mine in Red Lake. This advertisement, which was carried as late as 1981 in the Thunder Bay Times-News, said, "The Griffith Mine in Red Lake, Ontario, Ontario's most modern iron ore mining, concentrating and pelletizing complex; largest producer of high-grade iron ore pellets at 1.5 million pounds per year.... The Griffith Mine is part of northwestern Ontario's growth, lending a stable economic base to the Red Lake-Ear Falls area, with a future that will exist into the 21st century. Is there a future for you in mining? Check with us to review career opportunities available in our operations." Fewer than five years later, it has closed without a whimper. Now there is a whimper, but that is all, from this government.

That is the attack on the resources industry. What we now see is an attack on the manufacturing and processing capability in northern Ontario. The down-sizing in Sault Ste. Marie is at the manufacturing level. It has subsequent effects for

my colleague from Algoma in the mine at Wawa, but the attack is at the manufacturing capability.

That is what is happening in the forestry industry. It is the attack by Canadian Pacific, which is withdrawing its capital from Algoma and deciding to locate it elsewhere. That is what it is doing in northwestern Ontario. The waferboard plant has a manufacturing capability, and there are markets for waferboard. With the current boom and development in the housing industry, do we not think there is going to be a market for that product, for siding, for flooring? The company itself, Great Lakes Forest Products, has indicated there is an assured market for the next six months and probably for the next year. They are telling us it is not profitable, but I do not believe them.

I say to this government, if it wants to tackle this problem, it has to do a couple of things. It must have the courage to introduce legislation that will force companies to open their books and give the community, the workers involved and this Legislature an honest look at their bottom line.

Why do we have the right to do that? We have the right to do that because they have used our resources. In the resources sector, they have used them virtually free, without payment of taxes and in many cases avoiding royalty payments by a dodge in the Mining Tax Act for many years, which my colleagues from northern Ontario know about. For example, I do not believe Caland in Steep Rock paid a royalty or corporate income tax in the 20-odd years that mine was open. All we got out of it was a hole in the ground.

We also have the right to do that because we, as the representatives of the people, have invested in those communities. We put taxpayers' dollars into the schools, the roads and the infrastructure of the municipalities. Those corporations have a responsibility to pay back and to reinvest the capital and the profit they earned in our province and in that area. The beggars on the government side of the House had better screw up their courage, face the problem head on and get the legislative authority to do that.

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) said the marketplace is "doing its thing." It is doing its thing to the people of Sault Ste. Marie. It is also doing its thing to the people of Thunder Bay and to the people of Terrace Bay. Kimberly-Clark announced at its annual meeting in the United States that it may not be able to sustain its operation in this part of Canada. That is a nice, quaint phrase. If it closes, it will cut out

900 jobs in the mill and 900 woodlands jobs in the community of Terrace Bay. That ain't good enough, in my view. It is about time we forced the Kimberly-Clarks, the Stelcos, the Algoma Steels and the Great Lakes Forest Products to justify not merely any closure but also any sizeable layoff in excess of 25 people. They need to give a year's notice, they need to open their books and they need to justify it, not merely in economic terms but also in social terms.

This debate, frankly, is about a very simple principle. It is about the principle of whether we have the guts to be masters in our home. We in northern Ontario are saying to those opposite who have the power in our province that it is about time they did that for the whole province and for the people of northern Ontario, with the people of northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I rise to correct the record. I wondered why the member for Algoma was looking quizzically at me when I was talking about Prince Edward Island. I was talking about the Sydney Steel Corp. in Nova Scotia. I thank him very much for bringing it to my attention.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think that is a proper point of privilege.

Mr. Dean: The debate we are engaged in this afternoon is something none of us enjoys having to do because of the seriousness of the underlying incidents that bring it about. The loss of livelihood, wherever it comes from, is traumatic for workers, for owners and for the community as a whole and, if it is extensive, can be devastating for the person and for the community concerned.

It does not make any difference whether it is from an industrial layoff because of substandard prices in the farming industry, with which we are all familiar, or from some personal tragedy; the loss of livelihood is something we cannot fully appreciate until we have gone through it ourselves. I have not personally experienced that, except once in a while when the election goes the wrong way, but we do not count that because we know that is a hazard of the course.

However, in my community of Hamilton-Wentworth, particularly my own riding of Wentworth, Stoney Creek, Hamilton and Glanbrook, this is not a new phenomenon, nor is it in other communities of the province. All members know the principal companies in Hamilton are Stelco and Dofasco. They have gone through something like what the people of the Sault Ste. Marie area via Algoma Steel are now facing.

Mr. Wildman: Not quite.

Mr. Dean: That is why I said "something like." If the people listening would wait until I finished, they would not have to make so many irrelevant comments.

Mr. Ashe: They are not used to listening.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Dean: That is probably so. The tragedy which may be about to happen in the Sault is parallel to problems that have happened in my own community. I do not think I need to enumerate them. During the recession that we all experienced in one way or another, Stelco and Dofasco in particular were hard hit in Hamilton-Wentworth with great layoffs of the workers. Thousands of people were laid off. Mercifully, some of them have been rehired, but some of them will never be rehired because of the adjustment in the way business is going to have to be conducted to meet competition.

In saying that, I am not writing it off as an easy shibboleth which is convenient to say, i.e., "That is just because of an industrial adjustment." Industrial adjustments are painful and it means there is a loss of livelihood and a loss of opportunities for entrepreneurs to do their work which creates employment for the rest of us. We have to realize that the Canadian steel industry is among the most cost-efficient and most productive in the world because of the way our people work and the way the management has kept the machinery and all the other accessories of production up to date. It may be the world's leader in many cases.

In spite of all those benefits, there is still a matter of overproduction in the world. We are seeing more and more new steel producers coming on in parts of the world which, 15 or 20 years ago, did not produce a ton. We have not seen the last of this kind of thing, but that does not make it any easier to take. What is about to happen in Algoma Steel, if it goes through, is certainly going to be far more critical to the municipality and the surrounding areas where it is located than what we felt to be serious dislocations in the Hamilton-Wentworth area because of similar problems.

I want to mention briefly a comparable case with which I have had direct experience. I know what it has done to the community. Some members will recall that in Stoney Creek, which is a major part of my riding, a year or so ago we had one of the Inglis plants announce that it was going to phase out production completely. That is not our only industry, but it is our second-largest industry, exceeded only by a long-time reliable industry, E. D. Smith & Sons, the

producer of farm-product foods, beverages and so on of very high quality.

When Inglis announced it was going to phase out, I met with the workers concerned. They felt somebody had to help. Nobody in industry seemed to be saying that they were going to be helpful. The workers went to their members of Parliament and of the provincial parliament. I cannot respond in regard to what the member of Parliament did, but as far as I was concerned, I had many long conversations with these people. We took whatever steps we could to try to mitigate the effect of this announcement. Surprisingly enough, some of the people were subsequently called back, even after the first layoff, but it is still a phase-out.

It has been a devastating experience for many families. What do people do if they have been with a company for many years, are now perhaps aged 50 or 55, have invested a great deal of their time and their family's time in that community and suddenly their job disappears? Even if there is another job at a distance to go to, it requires a lot of soul-searching to pull up stakes and go to that new job when so much of people's lives are invested in the community and in the industry where they have been working. It is very hard to pull up stakes and do that.

I know it has been a very hard period for the workers of the Inglis plant, and the end is not yet in sight. It is very difficult. The former government did what it could to try to see about a replacement industry there. I hope the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who does not seem to be gracing us with his presence now, and I am really disappointed in that because I think he should be here for a debate of this sort, is doing something—I am not convinced that he has done very much—in the range of things a government can do to deal with these phase-outs and difficulties in different parts of Ontario.

The member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) has spoken glowingly of the co-operation between different levels of government which we all support and which was advocated by the member for Brantford. Of course, that is desirable. We cannot waste resources or compete between different levels of government to see who can do this or that in divergent directions.

We need to co-operate, but co-operation, as mentioned by the member for Niagara Falls and other members on the government side, is the last resort of a government in power when it is bankrupt of ideas. They say: "We cannot do anything. Over to you guys. Let us co-operate. You help us." That is a fine principle, but I will

pose a question which is not a rhetorical question, and I hope somebody from the government of the day will respond.

Has the government not found out as yet, may I say through you, Mr. Speaker, to the members of the government—I notice there are no cabinet members in the House at this point unless they are hiding somewhere. Is there anybody under the desk there?

Mr. Gregory: They do not care. They are not interested.

Mr. Dean: They do not care. Not a single member. I see that—

Mr. Polsinelli: They are on the member's side.

Mr. Dean: I am not convinced they are on our side. The member will have to prove it to me. They are conferring with the New Democratic Party. I suppose I should have expected to see them there. I keep a very close eye out and I do not want to look to the left. I think there is a moderate position here, and I wish the government of the day would adopt that principle too.

I can see as I look across at those few seats over there that there is not a government minister present. That is appalling. It denotes indifference. I mentioned earlier that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology was absent, but there is nobody here. That shows the limit, the extent of the commitment of this government to trying to do anything about these crises that happen from time to time.

I departed from my prepared remarks to point out how limited was the attention of the government to that. I want to point out that we have four people on our front bench, all former ministers or their equal. We do not have that across the House. The government has not yet found out that it has to assume leadership, wrongheaded though it may be.

Mr. Polsinelli: My colleague to the right is concerned about the designated audience, but I will not be questioning about that.

Our government is vitally concerned with the economic health of all Ontario communities. Northern communities in particular have special needs because of their lack of economic diversity and their heavy reliance on nonrenewable resources. This government understands the depth of human tragedy that results from the transformations at present occurring in the so-called single-industry towns. Our first throne speech outlined a number of initiatives that we will be undertaking in northern Ontario to aid in the diversification process. Special emphasis was

placed on education initiatives, retraining and the development and implementation of new technologies. Furthermore, the government is giving high priority to the preparation of a comprehensive tourism strategy specifically tailored to the needs of northern Ontario.

The Sault has recognized the need to diversify the economy. Recently, the city has identified tourism as a potential growth industry and has investigated the feasibility of constructing a \$21-million northern visitor centre along the Sault waterfront. The centre would combine a marina with convention, retail and entertainment facilities. At the same time, a group of local industries are proposing to construct a \$1-million cruise ship operation, in addition to the three cruise ship firms already operating near the locks.

5:30 p.m.

To assist the city in its efforts to improve the local tourism base, the province recently provided \$1.6 million to the former community economic transformation agreement program to help fund the marina expansion and improvements to the local sports fishing industry.

The problems facing single-industry towns are also being addressed by Dr. Rosehart's Committee on Resource-Dependent Communities. The committee has submitted a progress report, the recommendations of which the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is currently considering seriously. We look forward to receiving the committee's full report and its recommendations.

Algoma Steel is Canada's third-largest steel producer. Unlike Stelco and Dofasco, which have a diversified product mix and are oriented more towards consumer goods, Algoma is heavily dependent upon capital goods. While Stelco's and Dofasco's markets seem to have recovered from the 1982 recession, Algoma's capital goods markets are still lagging. Losses for Algoma are expected to continue into the 1986 season.

The recent drop in oil prices and the resulting decline in oil exploration and in demand for steel pipe and tubing have exacerbated Algoma's uncertain market outlook. We are all sadly familiar with the planned restructuring that the company is currently undertaking, which will result in the loss of more than 1,500 jobs in the next year in the Sault and in Wawa.

I am, as are all members of this House, deeply concerned with the welfare of all those individuals who will lose their jobs and with the impact this will have on their communities. Emanating

from this concern are a number of actions that have taken place. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) is meeting tomorrow with the chairman of Algoma to explore at first hand what specific implications Algoma sees for its employees from last week's general announcement.

In addition, the Ministry of Labour has developed an innovative employee counselling program, which it offers in conjunction with local post-secondary institutions. This program will be available to the Algoma workers. The program will provide the laid-off workers with intensive training in job search skills and career planning and will offer referral services to other local agencies. The employment counselling program of the Ministry of Labour has been effective in a number of northern communities affected by work force reductions. These include the Inco reductions in Sudbury, the Griffith Mine in Ear Falls, Lee Canada in North Bay and Weldwood in South River.

Through the ministry's co-operation with the industrial adjustment service of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, every effort will be made to identify alternative employment opportunities in the Sault area. In addition, I believe there is a strong possibility that Sault Ste. Marie will benefit from the proposed community Futures program, and I envisage strong provincial participation in that program.

These are some measures designed to bring some relief to the workers, their families and the communities at large affected by the pending layoffs. I also note that the Minister of Labour met with several officials regarding the program for older worker adjustment and expects to meet with his federal counterpart to explore possible joint initiatives for older Ontario workers.

As members opposite will no doubt agree, the Algoma announcement reinforces concerns about the issue of plant closure justification, as is specifically mentioned in the Agenda for Reform and as one element within the context of a more general reform of job security legislation.

Mr. Foulds: Let us move on it now.

Mr. Polsinelli: We will.

The minister has indicated to this House on a number of occasions that a broad-based review is currently under way. The ministry is looking at a range of options involving advance notice, severance pay, consultation, justification and disclosure.

The problems reflected by the recent Algoma announcement are indicative of serious, systematic difficulties in many areas of the northern

economy. While every attempt will be made to ameliorate the immediate difficulties faced by the workers in Sault Ste. Marie and in Wawa, it is my belief that the solution lies in our implementing new initiatives that will foster new development in the north and broaden the economic base of those communities.

At this point I would like to quote from Hansard of a few days ago, where the Premier was responding to a question addressed to him by the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) regarding the Algoma Steel layoffs in Sault Ste. Marie. The Premier responded: "We are now in the process of building a future for northern Ontario, southern Ontario, eastern Ontario, the entire province. We see the future far more clearly than the member did. The members opposite only saw the future in terms of the next election, and look what happened to them." We are looking at a future 10, 20 or 30 years down the line.

To emphasize that point, the Premier responded to a supplementary from the member for Sault Ste. Marie, dealing with the Algoma layoff situation: "I am mindful of the problems of single-industry towns right across the province. This is nothing new. The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) has been talking about this for the last 10 years; we are now in the process of addressing it. When the member sees the full result of our initiatives, he will stand up in this House and praise the government."

This is what this government is all about. We are not looking for short-term solutions, for solutions that will appease the opposition or the third party today and keep them quiet for a few more days. We are looking for solutions that will benefit Ontario into the years 2000 and 2100.

Mr. Wildman: I want to congratulate my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie for proposing this debate today, because the situation is indeed an emergency. It is an emergency because of the Algoma Steel Corp. decision and announcement last week, but it is also an emergency because of the failure of this government to grasp the severity of the economic crisis resulting from that announcement for Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and all of the Algoma district. The speech just delivered by the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli) is an indication of that.

Algoma Steel has not announced just another layoff, a normal adjustment in the business cycle. It has announced a massive, permanent down-sizing. It is not saying these people will be off work for a couple of months, or even a few months or a year, and then will be called back.

The company is saying it is going to survive as a much smaller operation, which will mean a significant number of lost jobs in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. We are facing the decision of an international conglomerate, Canadian Pacific, which shows very little responsibility and certainly no loyalty to the communities in which its companies operate.

The company is talking about changing its capacity to 2.5 million tons, down from 3.5 million tons now.

The reason for the debate this afternoon is that the communities in our area are crying for help. We did not suggest this debate so we could hear partisan statements about what the Tories did not do or what the Liberals are going to do. Unfortunately, we have heard that in this debate. We proposed this debate because we wanted to raise the profile of this issue—a northern Ontario, Algoma district, Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa issue—in the Legislature and with the government.

The situation we face today in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa demands more than the traditional government responses. They are just not good enough. In response to my questions and to questions from my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie and from our leader, we have heard statements in the House by the Premier that indicate he does not understand the importance of the situation. These are not temporary layoffs. This is a downturn that means permanent joblessness for many people in our area.

5:40 p.m.

Since the previous speaker was quoting statements by the Premier, I will quote one as well. The Premier said these people are “unfortunate byproducts of these transformations.” That is a quote from the Premier. That is the first time in my life that I have ever heard a person referred to as a byproduct. Perhaps that is an indication of how much this government understands about the situation in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa.

Already we have an unemployment rate of more than 20 per cent. We have had a series of layoffs since 1982. We can talk about the numbers and the statistics, but we are not talking just about percentages and statistics; we are talking about people. We are talking about people who are my friends and neighbours. We are talking about the small communities around Sault Ste. Marie as well as the city of Sault Ste. Marie. The families who live within these communities are facing economic devastation. Saying the nice bywords about its being a

restructuring and how it is something that has to be done so the company can survive does not help those families one bit. Those families’ lives are being destroyed. They are not waste products or byproducts; they cannot be disposed of in some way or, for that matter, even recycled in the way that one would a byproduct of an industrial operation.

I have heard comments from members of this House today which indicate they do not understand the differences between the northern economy and the economy of southern Ontario. We have had people who have attempted to equate the situation in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa with the situation in Sarnia, Brantford or other places in southern Ontario. I do not debate that those communities have experienced economic hardships since the recession in 1982. However, the point is that northern Ontario has not experienced the economic recovery we have seen in most parts of southern Ontario. We are still in the recession. It is not a thing of the past for us; we are still experiencing it, and it is getting worse.

As well, we are indeed one-industry towns in northern Ontario. Our communities are dependent on one major industry in most cases. When that industry is in trouble and when it lays off workers, it is not possible to get another job at another company in the same community. As a matter of fact, it is not even possible to go to another community to get a job. Do members realize the closest major employer to Sault Ste. Marie is 180 miles away? You cannot commute.

It is not like southern Ontario. We are talking about a very different situation. The hearts of our communities are being torn out, and I am disappointed that some members of this House do not seem to understand the gravity of the situation.

I want to talk particularly about the community of Wawa in my riding. It is a community with a total population of 5,000. It is totally dependent on the Algoma Ore division, the mine that supplies ore to the Algoma Steel Corp. in Sault Ste. Marie. There is tourism, of course, but it is secondary to the approximately 400 or 450 jobs at Algoma Ore division.

Mr. Nixon, the president of Algoma Steel Corp., points out that he is biased towards the Algoma Ore division and wants to keep it operating. He points out that it has had major productivity improvements over the past number of years and produces 80 tons per man-year, far more than any other underground mine in North

America. Inco, as I understand it, makes only about 20 tons.

Despite those comments by the president of the Algoma Steel Corp., the fact is, as I said in question period today, that the company has shifted more and more of its raw material sourcing to the Tilden mine in Michigan over the past number of years. We are in a situation now where 60 per cent of the ore used by Algoma comes from Michigan. Historically, 60 per cent came from Wawa. The production work force is down to about 350, whereas in the past it was about 700 employees.

There is a great deal of uncertainty in Wawa. The reason for that uncertainty is the vagueness of the statement by Algoma Steel Corp. It said it would not make up its mind until the end of June about what the future would bring. It might mean a total closure, perhaps over five years. However, even if it is spaced over five years, a total closure would be a catastrophe for the community of Wawa. It would mean no future for the youth of Wawa. They will have to move to southern Ontario to get a job if they are lucky, and it would mean disaster for the older laid-off workers who already own their own homes and who would have no chance of getting jobs close to home in the area.

There is the other possibility: They may not shut down; they may cut their operating capacity from 1.8 million tons to 900,000 tons. However, even that would mean a job loss of about a third, about 150 jobs directly, which, translated, would mean about 400 to 450 jobs with the ripple effect. Workers with as much as 15 years' seniority would be affected. The community life would be destroyed. It would be almost impossible for small businesses to survive. Schools, churches and social services would be very difficult to finance. It would have a devastating effect also on the Algoma Central Railway.

My colleague and I have suggested that a committee of this Legislature, the standing committee on resources development, should look into this whole situation. We are looking for answers; we are not looking for political rhetoric. We want the government to take this matter seriously. We want to know that it understands the gravity of the situation for Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie. We want new initiatives and approaches. We do not want a government that sits back and watches the market forces take effect, because those market forces have had effect in northern Ontario for far too long and they mean complete devastation to the communi-

ties unless something serious is done by this government.

Mr. Gordon: I am glad to see the Minister of Labour is in the House this afternoon, and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. I hope both of these gentlemen will give my regards to the Premier, who I notice is not here for this very important debate about northern Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie.

I want to make some very specific points. I listened very closely to the member for Yorkview. He was repeating some words the Premier had said in this House about how we are now building a future for the north. When I take a look at this reprint of the throne speech, all I see are references to tourism and to establishing a board to deal with Ontario Hydro. We need much more than that in the north. The people in Sault Ste. Marie, those people who are going to be laid off by Algoma Steel, need much more than tourism and a board to look after Ontario Hydro.

Some people do not seem to realize that in the north it gets cold in the fall, in the wintertime there is snow and ice and spring did not come until perhaps three weeks ago. I just do not know, after listening to the member for Yorkview, where these cruise ships are going to find their passengers. We do not get that many tourists in the north in the dead of winter.

If the government is looking for something that is going to be the backbone of northern Ontario and that is going to provide long-term jobs, jobs that go on day after day and hour after hour, then it had better not look to tourism in the north. Tourism in the north does have an important part to play, but it is only one part of the mosaic of jobs for people in northern Ontario. If the government is looking at tourism as being the panacea, it is going down the wrong road, because it is not going to be doing anything for northern people.

If the Minister of Labour wants to be realistic in this day and age, the time is long overdue in this province when a fund must be established between industry and government that would provide at least 90 per cent of the cost of retraining or relocating workers in this province, whether it is to one part or another of the north or into the south.

A father who has been out of work for months whose child asks, "Daddy, why are you not going to work today?" or "How come I can't have a new bicycle?" has to say: "We don't have any money. As a matter of fact, I am worried that we are going to lose the house we are living in because, you see, son, after you have been on

unemployment insurance for a time and there are no other jobs, you end up having to go on welfare. That is going to restrict the amount of money we have even more." How does one explain that to a child?

5:50 p.m.

Does the government realize the stress and strain placed on families by announcements such as that of 1,500 workers being laid off in Sault Ste. Marie? Does it know what that does to a community that already has 4,000 people on welfare and has had up to 40 per cent of the work force at Algoma Steel laid off over the past five years? Does it know what that does to investors from other parts of Ontario who are considering investing in that community? It casts a pall of gloom over everything.

Government today, in the year of our Lord 1986, has a very important role to play in helping people in Sault Ste. Marie and northern Ontario. There is no point in the Premier, through the throne speech, talking about how he is going to get into the high-tech business. We all know the high-tech business is going to mean fewer jobs, particularly for the people in these very primary industries. If he is not going to talk about job retraining in a meaningful way and put money there, I say to the Minister of Labour that it is not good enough. I look to him to change the attitude of many of his cabinet colleagues in this regard.

I will go even further. What we have seen in northern Ontario in the past five years is particularly distressing. I know it is particularly distressing to the members sitting to the left of me. They have talked about it many times in the past, as I have and as many of my colleagues have. There is a real loss of people in northern Ontario. People are moving out of the north in ever-increasing numbers. One of the reasons they are moving is they have not seen a clear signal from government, where government says it is going to start building job opportunities in northern Ontario in places such as Sault Ste. Marie.

Why in the devil should the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines be situated in southern Ontario? Why should the Ministry of Natural Resources be established in southern Ontario? There is no reason for it. Those ministries and their employees should be decentralized to northern Ontario. That is one of the key approaches the government on the other side could take. That is one approach I hope the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will take. I understand he is coming forward with his new budget in a week or two. We will be looking closely to the minister

making an announcement along with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

I see the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is here. Perhaps I should comment on one point he made. About eight months ago he announced he was going to set up regional economic councils in northern Ontario that were going to help us all to find more jobs for people in the north. I got a letter from him about two weeks ago in which he announced he is just getting around to doing it now. If that is the speed this Liberal government is going to take in dealing with jobs, then it is in real trouble. It is not helping northerners.

An hon. member: It is 1,000 times faster.

Interjections.

Mr. Gordon: They are getting agitated. It is not my fault they are getting agitated. I give them one concrete suggestion, and that is to move the employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources and of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to the major centres in northern Ontario. That would give a real shot in the arm to the north.

The second proposal I will make at this time to my friends sitting on the other side—I see we are running out of time, but I will try to proceed.

[Applause]

Mr. Gordon: I thank the party on the left for clapping so vigorously for me.

If they want more jobs in the north they will have to have a differential rate for hydro. Power is very important in attracting jobs. The cost of power is important. The cost of natural gas and the cost of hydro should be lower in the north than it is in the south. If the government is truly sincere about creating more jobs in northern Ontario, this is another recommendation it should take under advisement and do something about.

There is a third point I would like to bring forward.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: How did the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) react when the member suggested that to him?

Mr. Gordon: I can see the Minister of Labour is becoming agitated. He has had a lot of time; he has been minister for some time now. He has been able to bring in some recommendations and some proposals, and I have not heckled him when that has happened; so I would ask him just to calm down for a second.

The third item that is very important for people in the north is better transportation. Better transportation is key. If this government wants to

see job opportunities develop in the north, it has to make access in the north easier, and trucking has to be able to move at a speed that is essentially the same as that at which people travel through southern and eastern Ontario.

I will make another recommendation to the Treasurer, who is here today, and I know he will put it in his budget. He should announce a program to have major four-laning throughout the areas of the north that require improved transportation for future long-term economic health.

I have given him three suggestions this afternoon. I have not been partisan; I have given him positive suggestions. I know these suggestions are ones that might take a little bit of money, but they also take a little ingenuity and a little hope and caring for people.

The next time the Minister of Northern Development and Mines is meeting in cabinet, if he could just set up those regional economic councils he was talking about eight months ago, we might begin to believe that he truly means what he says about the north. Concerning that committee he sent around the world—the one he sent to Sweden and so forth—will he please bring in the recommendations, because we are looking for them.

Mr. Ramsay: In summing up this debate, it would be safe to say that what we are talking about today is priorities. We have to realize that we have a vast northern region of this province and that we have to decide consciously whether we want to inhabit, work in and live productive lives in that region. We have never really done that; we have never formed a strategy for how we want to run the economy of this province.

We have to look at the priorities. Do we want our people to be gainfully employed or do we want them to accept social assistance? If we are going to put money into the north, it would be better to spend money to have people work rather than to keep them on welfare. This is the difference we should be looking at when we make our investments in the north. What we are doing is allowing all those people to fall through all the cracks in those wonderful safety nets that we in this party have worked for for so long. Sure, they get caught by the safety net, but that is how we say we run the economy in the north.

We in the north say this is not good enough. We want real work. We want to contribute to this province and not to have handouts for the north. We want to be given some of the tools, like possibly the Ontario Northland Railway and, as the throne speech said, Ontario Hydro. We want

to see those tools so we can use them to create our own work and be productive in this province and not to have to be here time and again having these debates on putting out the fires, as we do in northern Ontario, and having to patch up these crises all the time.

When we look at these operations we have to look at the difference between what is a profitable operation and what is a viable operation. A viable operation may be at the break-even point. If it is not quite at the break-even point, it may be worth while to invest public money to keep that operation going. Not only is it contributing to the economy but it is also giving people real jobs. It is much better to do that than to accept social assistance.

We do not want that any more. We want to forge our own society in the north; we want to form our own economy. But we are going to need the tools that government can provide us to do that. We do not want to have to go through these debates all the time, year after year, trying to chase down companies that are deserting the people who have contributed so much to their profitability in the past, and that when the profit is gone, leave those people to go their way. We have had enough of that.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the time allotted for the debate on the motion by the member for Sault Ste. Marie.

I wish to inform the members that, pursuant to standing order 33(b), the member for Sault Ste. Marie has presented a petition requesting that the annual report of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology be referred to the standing committee on resources development.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Just before moving the adjournment of the House, I wish to say that the regular orders of business have been somewhat disrupted by a series of emergency debates, very similar to the opening of the House where the government moves Bill 1 before we proceed to a debate on His Honour's address. In this instance, both opposition parties moved emergency debates before we dealt with the regular business of the House. There is something all right about that.

However, we are hoping that the mover and the seconder of an address in reply will be heard tomorrow, Tuesday, and that on Wednesday we will hear from the leader of the official opposition or his spokesman. On Thursday, the House will not meet in the morning, but we will hear from the leader of the New Democratic Party or his spokesman on Thursday afternoon, and the regular debate will proceed following his speech.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, April 29, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 29, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform the members that today we have a distinguished guest in the Speaker's gallery, a guest from our neighbouring province to the west. I would like to introduce to the members of the House the Honourable Howard Pawley, Premier of Manitoba. Welcome.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I join in this joyous occasion and extend my personal welcome and a welcome from the government to Premier Pawley. We are delighted to have him and two of his assistants—Ginny Devine, who is no relation, I am told; and John Walsh, who is secretary of cabinet—joining us today. We have had some constructive discussions over lunch.

One of the things I admire so very much about Premier Pawley is the constructive way he views his role in building a stronger and better Canada. I am one of those who supports the leadership he has taken at a number of national forums. Now that he is comfortably ensconced for another four years, we pay him our great respects in that regard too.

Welcome to Ontario.

Mr. Grossman: I join the Premier (Mr. Peterson) in welcoming Premier Pawley. I had the opportunity to sit with him at first ministers' conferences in the good old days, as it were, and much enjoyed his contributions on behalf of his people. He often had with him an array of very competent, skilled ministers as well.

No doubt Premier Pawley has had an opportunity to give advice to the Premier of Ontario on certain policies from one side of the political spectrum. I suspect he got a welcome ear, given what has been happening here. If the Premier of Manitoba should like to offer more advice, in this case to the opposition party in Ontario, on how quickly to beat a new government—something he also has experience in from his first time at it—we would be pleased to receive him later this afternoon.

I join the Premier of Ontario in welcoming our distinguished guest from Manitoba.

Mr. Rae: It is a special pleasure for me as leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario to welcome my comrade-in-arms, the leader of the New Democratic Party in Manitoba and the Premier of Manitoba. Premier Pawley is accompanied by Mr. Walsh, who is a well-known graduate of the New Democratic Party of Ontario and a long-time activist in our party in this province from Windsor. It is also worth pointing out that Premier Pawley is a native of Brampton, Ontario, a town not unknown as a generator of Premiers. It is a pleasure to welcome the progressive half of that particular duo.

As a result of my meeting this morning with Premier Pawley, I know of his considerable interest and experience in such areas as how to end extra billing, how to deal toughly with the federal government with respect to transfer payments and how to deal with the major issues of the relationship between the federal and provincial governments on the question of free trade.

It is a very real pleasure for us, particularly after his successful election, to welcome Premier Pawley here and to say, "May you stay as long as you like." He is a brother-in-law of a constituent of mine and he is more than welcome to stay as long as he likes. We look forward to a little more of the New Democratic breeze coming from Manitoba eastward towards Ontario.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: If you will follow me through on this point, I believe the privileges not only of this House but more particularly of the new standing committee on finance and economic affairs have been abused. Last weekend in the press, and I have a copy of the clipping here, the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) was quoted as saying he is the chairman of that new standing committee of the House. Of course, that decision will not be made until such time as the committee actually meets. The committee was established officially only yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps you will take that under advisement, and if the member wishes to respond as to why he quoted himself to the press as being the chairman, it would be appreciated.

Mr. Speaker: I listened carefully to the member. I heartily believe that is a point of privilege and I am quite certain the committee will be able to discuss it. If it wishes to report anything to the House, the House in turn, through me, will be glad to deal with the matter.

[Later]

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to new standing order 18(b), on a question of personal privilege: Earlier this afternoon, the member for Cambridge rose on what he alleged to be a question of personal privilege. He suggested that I had incorrectly informed the media I was the chairman of the new standing committee on finance and economic affairs. I was surprised to hear the allegation and asked him for his evidence. He has passed me a clipping from last Saturday's *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* which does not quote me as saying I am the chairman of that committee but, rather, correctly quotes me as saying that committee has not yet been formally struck. In the circumstances, I ask you to ask the member to withdraw the allegation that he has incorrectly made against me.

Mr. Speaker: I did not accept it as a point of privilege, originally. I said it could be dealt with within the committee and I believe the honourable member has risen, not on a point of privilege, but on a point of personal explanation. That should clarify the matter.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to clarify the record. The leader of the third party indicated that there was an agreement between our party and the Liberals with respect to placing Bill 30 before Bill 94. I wish to point out that is incorrect. We had no problem supporting Bill 30 first because of the time frames in education—

Mr. Speaker: I remind the honourable member and all honourable members that it is their right to get up and correct the record regarding anything they have said. However, I believe you were trying to correct something that another member had said.

STANDING ORDERS

Mr. Speaker: As the members are aware, they passed a motion yesterday changing some of the proceedings of the Legislature. Routine proceedings are a bit different from what they have been previously. Perhaps I might explain briefly to the members, before each of the sections, how members' statements, statements by the ministry and oral questions will work, in

case they did not read diligently the revised standing orders that have been placed on their desks.

Members' statements give a private member, other than a party leader or a minister, an opportunity to make a statement of up to 90 seconds with a total time for such statements of 10 minutes. These times will be strictly enforced so that all members have an opportunity to participate. As stated in the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions in November 1985, "The new standing order will provide an opportunity for members to express themselves on matters which are of concern to them and their constituents."

2:10 p.m.

In the past, there have been a number of members who have risen on different occasions on what I might call fictitious points of order or points of privilege. I hope this will relieve that situation. It will be my duty to call those members out of order because, in turn, they will have an opportunity to make their points during members' statements.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

HEARING IMPAIRED

Mr. McCague: At this time in Ontario, there are some 66,000 individuals with serious hearing problems. They may be found in every community. They span every age group. For the most part, the hearing impaired are a disadvantaged group. They are disadvantaged with respect to every social opportunity from the moment of their deafness.

Consider the practical implications of this for a child. The problems of communication, self-esteem, personal development and social opportunity are almost too great to be comprehended by anyone other than another deaf person. The deaf survive on the edge of normal society, fighting for an opportunity to earn their way, prove their worth and claim their dignity.

Some say the cause of the deaf was fought and won long ago. This is not the case. There is a serious lack of public understanding and opportunity. The deaf need better opportunities and more resources for self-help. The deaf need a practical social response to ordinary problems.

The Huronia Hearing Impaired Society has 240 profoundly deaf registered members. These people are frustrated and worried. They are not able to contact the police or ambulance services in an emergency. This would not be the case if the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) were to act.

STANDING ORDERS

Mr. Breaugh: This is the first day of our new standing orders. While it may not be very fascinating for the rest of the world, for the members here I believe it is an important change in the way we conduct the business of the Legislature. The intention very clearly is to provide ordinary members with a lot more opportunities to say their piece and to participate in the kind of work that goes on at the committee level.

The standing committee on the Legislative Assembly will try to keep track of these new standing orders. I take this opportunity to invite members, as we go through them and get some experience, to bring their concerns and any suggestions they have to the committee so that when we review these standing orders at the end of this session, we will have a good working concept of how successful we have been at making changes in the way we do business.

These standing orders, of course, do not reflect my personal point of view, but there is a lot of me in them. A lot of work was also done on preparing these by all three caucuses and by a great many members. It is to be hoped that this revision of the standing orders will be utilized by each and every member.

WELCOME FROM BRAMPTON

Mr. Callahan: The leader of the third party indicated that Premier Pawley is from Brampton. I do not know how long ago he left Brampton, but we are now 170,000 strong and working towards 350,000.

We have a lot of problems arising from this growth, but we are working on them. I feel confident this government will address the problems of our hospital and our court facilities in that city. I take this opportunity to say that if the Premier is back in town, he should come out and visit us.

PROCESSING PLANT

Mr. Stevenson: I am pleased to announce a \$1-million grant to the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative. The co-op successfully tolerated nine months of indecision and confusion in the Liberal government. In February the federal government announced a \$1.5-million grant to the co-op. For the last three months the Liberal government had been unable to come to a decision. Last week I was contacted to assist in moving the decision along.

Yesterday at noon I was informed by the co-op that Brian Slemko of the staff of the Ministry of

Agriculture and Food had called to inform the co-op the funding would flow. Later, in question period, it was obvious from his answer that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) did not know the funding had been made.

Immediately after question period, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) went to the desks of both the Minister of Agriculture and Food and his parliamentary assistant, the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller). Clearly, the Treasurer made the decision, and of all those involved in the issue, the Minister of Agriculture and Food and his parliamentary assistant were the last to be informed.

This is another significant example of indecision and confusion in the office of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. He is clearly the mouthpiece for the ministry, with the Treasurer making the significant decision. The Minister of Agriculture and Food does not know what is going on in his own ministry.

POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Ramsay: I would like to bring to the attention of the Legislature the manner in which the government of Ontario has hamstrung the functioning of the board of police commissioners in Kirkland Lake, the largest town in my riding.

Since December 1985, the commission has been short of members simply because the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes) has failed to appoint them. In the most recent case, the Solicitor General has failed to reappoint a respected businessman of some stature in the community after his first term on the commission expired, with no reason whatsoever being given. This is an insult and is very inconsiderate to this member and to the people of Kirkland Lake.

This also comes at a time when the commission has been instructed by the Ontario Police Commission to spend up to \$800,000 of municipal taxes to replace a badly dilapidated police facility. There is a shortage of money in Kirkland Lake, but now we have a shortage of police commissioners, which renders the decision-making process very difficult. More important, the government's inaction has frustrated the democratic will of the people of Kirkland Lake.

The previous government used to use this commission as a political football. This government's failure to act responsibly shows that the Solicitor General must restructure the appointment process so that the commissioners are chosen by the people of Kirkland Lake and not by this government.

TELEVISION IN LEGISLATURE

Mr. Ferraro: First of all, I cannot help indicating, after having listened to the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) give his speech, that this is supposed to be the members' statements period. I wonder whether it would be referred to more appropriately as frustration ventilation period.

The point I want to make refers to the fact that now that we are all movie stars and on television, there is some confusion among members of the public who do not have cable service. After checking with the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Caplan) today, I state publicly, for those who do not have cable service, that by the end of the year reception will be in homes, particularly in the rural areas of the province, so that everyone will have the opportunity to watch the tremendous goings on of the House.

PENSIONERS' RAIL PASSES

Mr. Harris: Last October I informed all members of the decision by CP Rail to terminate unilaterally all rail passes long held by retired CP pensioners and their survivors. Because there was no consultation and because this action was wrong morally, if not legally, I asked all members to support those pensioners, who felt the arbitrary cancellation of rail passes was unfair.

I am pleased to inform the House today that the pensioners have won their battle and that the transportation privileges they worked so hard to earn have now been reinstated. Many members of this Legislature responded to my call for support, and I have been asked by the pensioners to express their appreciation for their efforts.

Only one member refused to support this cause. Ironically, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) defended CP Rail, saying, "I guess economically things are tough for them." We proved that it was not as tough for CP Rail as it was for the pensioners, and I congratulate CP Rail. It listened to reason and acted responsibly in the end.

The pensioners also received support from many members of all parties in Ottawa under the leadership of Nipissing member of Parliament Moe Mantha, from the associated railway unions, from many communities and from local councils. The people who really made it happen, though, are the seniors and pensioners themselves—in North Bay the Senior Steamers and in Chislehurst the Group of "55" and others. It demonstrates that working in a co-operative fashion can get results.

Again, my thanks to all those in this Legislature for their help.

2:20 p.m.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: It has come to my attention that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) indicated only yesterday that the individual problems I have been raising with respect to health and safety are in fact merely that—individual problems. The minister's refusal to enforce the act has made it virtually useless for protecting workers in Ontario.

I want to take it a couple of steps further and point out some of the things that are going on. These are not individual cases; there are patterns. Advance notice, which the minister says is not there, is still there. There is the pattern of companies being tipped off about when testing is going to be done. The windows and doors are open and certain equipment and production levels are cut back, so that it does not get the accurate test.

There are problems with respect to the way in which committees are appointed. There are problems in gigantic numbers with respect to the hospitals. I say to my friend the minister, over the next couple of months we are going to indicate this play by play, because unless he is prepared to enforce the act, it will stay at the position it has been at for the last couple of years; being virtually useless in protecting workers. The other pattern is that his ministry will not even use section 24 when workers who use their rights under section 23 are being dismissed all over the province.

Mr. Speaker: The time for members' statements has expired. However, I look forward to the same procedure tomorrow.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

Mr. Speaker: The next item is statements by the ministry and responses. Statements by the ministry are now confined to a total of 20 minutes unless there is unanimous consent to extend that time. Responses by the opposition parties may be made for a total of five minutes to each party. Again, these times will be strictly enforced.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I should add parenthetically that I just received a note from one of the esteemed members opposite, asking, "David, now are you not happy we reformed the process?" I am not sure how to answer that; however, we will leave the jury out on that for the moment.

SOVIET REACTOR

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I hate to do this, because in a way I am deviating from the rules we have just established in this House. I would require unanimous consent to do this, but if the members opposite are interested in an update on the Soviet reactor incident, I could bring them up to date. I am sorry I do not have statements, but this just came to my attention. Because of the international ramifications, I thought I could share what I know, which is limited, with the members opposite. It should be understood this is not part of our regular statement today.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker. I am just trying to share what I know.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It appears there is an objection.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is fine.

Mr. Harris: There is no objection. I thought the permission was that the Premier be allowed to give his statement without having given notice and giving us copies, and we agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I gather there is an objection and this should be included. Is that not so? No? Is it agreed?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: This is the best information we have at the moment. I believe Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. are having a press conference at two o'clock and will be explaining some of the differences between our system and the system in Russia. It is a most serious situation that I thought I would share with my colleagues in the House.

To the best of our knowledge, the accident started on Saturday, April 26, at a reactor in Chernobyl near Kiev. The latest information is that the reactor is on fire. Moscow has called for international help in fighting the fire and Sweden is said to be responding. Chernobyl has 4,000-megawatt, light-water cooled, graphite moderated reactors. It is possible that heat from the burning graphite is adding to the radioactive decay heat to produce severe overheating of fuel and the release of radioactive fission product.

As I understand it, Reuter reports there are 3.5 million people in the area of the plant, evacuation is taking place at this very moment, and radiation levels in the area of the plant itself are very high, which will hamper firefighting and other remedial measures.

There is little firm information available at present on the cause of the accident or on what the present status is, but there is no question this accident is a very major one. I understand thousands of casualties have been reported at this point, but I cannot confirm that.

I am also told that Environment Canada routinely monitors atmospheric radioactivity across the country and has announced it will increase the frequency of measurements to detect any increase from the Soviet accident.

Mr. Grossman: The Progressive Conservative Party suggests to the government of Ontario that, in the light of the circumstances related by the Premier, the government of Ontario offer to the Russians any and all expertise Ontario Hydro may have at hand, together with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., so Canada, and specifically Ontario, which has a lot of expertise in the nuclear energy field, may be right at the forefront of helping out with this international problem. I invite the government to take that step this afternoon.

Mr. Rae: I want to comment on the statement by the Premier on the enormous tragedy that has taken place in Kiev. I would like to urge the government and this Legislative Assembly that whatever our views may be of the Soviet system, our profound sympathy should be expressed to the authorities in the Soviet Union and to the authorities in the area of Kiev on the enormous human tragedy that has taken place. It is literally unthinkable that such a disaster would occur, and I think it would be entirely appropriate if, on behalf of the people of Ontario, this Legislature expressed itself in humanitarian terms to the people of Kiev.

The second thing I want to say to the government is in addition to what has already been said about the sharing of information and of all possible expertise that needs to take place. While we are in the early days of the reaction to this tragedy and disaster, it is appropriate that Ontario take the opportunity not only to gather as much information as we possibly can, but also to reflect in all seriousness on the fact that we, alone in North America and with the Soviet Union and France, are entering a period of very serious dependence on nuclear power for electrical generation. As the Premier knows, unless this government does what it as a party said it would do prior to the election and review the decisions with respect to Darlington, Ontario will be 70 per cent dependent on nuclear power by the 1990s.

When we entered—when I say “we,” I mean the western world and many of the Eastern Bloc

countries—into the nuclear world with respect to the peaceful application of nuclear technology, we entered into it at a time of enormous and almost limitless optimism about mankind's ability to control the environment and to control his future. We now realize, and perhaps this tragedy brings it home in a way that unfortunately nothing else could, there are limits to man's knowledge and limits to our expertise. The technological arrogance of a world view that might have been appropriate in the 1950s and even the 1960s is singularly inappropriate for us as a province today in the 1980s.

I would suggest not only that we as a province express our deepest sympathy to those who have been affected by this incredible tragedy, but also that we reflect long and hard on the implications of our becoming far too dependent on one technology that we know too little about, as today has made crystal-clear. We would be wise to reflect upon the implications of Ontario entering an exclusively nuclear age for our electrical generation.

TOURISM COMMERCIAL

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Because of technical difficulties, Hansard did not record my response to the questions asked of me by the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe). I would like to take this opportunity to put my response on the record.

It may be possible that under the previous government Camp Associates was paid time-and-a-half to shoot commercials on a weekend. However, I can assure the honourable member that under this government's contract with the new advertising agency, Vickers and Benson, this was not the case. Every effort was made to ensure that this ad campaign would be cost-effective.

All costs for footage needed for the new campaign were identified at the outset. Explicit instructions were given to avoid overtime charges, and indeed there were no overtime charges for weekend filming.

In keeping with the cost-effective nature of the new campaign, footage shot previously by Camp Associates under the previous government was used in the new commercials. Indeed, some of the very footage the member finds so objectionable, such as *The Frothing Waterfall*, was shot by Camp Associates, hired by the previous government.

In consultation with private sector groups in the tourism industry and my ministry, the new agency created a more product-specific and

people-oriented campaign that capitalizes on the warm hospitality of the people of Ontario.

To meet an April 15 deadline to launch the new campaign, which is considered the necessary lead time to plan a summer vacation, it was necessary to augment old footage with new shots using production sets. Obviously, it is impossible to shoot summer scenes in February and March, even on Lake Simcoe. However, I would like to note that many of the shots were produced outdoors in actual locations and that all the new material is representative of Ontario.

Mr. Rowe: Even though his microphone might not have worked yesterday, I did see and hear the Minister of Tourism and Recreation reply to my question. I simply say, what a difference a day makes. The minister should be aware that we raised this issue because it was brought to our attention and it was rumoured that the cost of this commercial was in the neighbourhood of \$500,000. If that is so, we find that not representative of good, sound management.

SCHOOLS AND INDUSTRY

Hon. Mr. Conway: The speech from the throne of April 22 stated this government's commitment to strengthen the bridge between our young people and business, industry and employment.

Although vocational preparation and the transition to work are not the sole missions of schools, the development of closer ties between school personnel and local business and industry continues to be a priority for the Ontario Ministry of Education.

For that reason, I am pleased to announce today three initiatives that will continue to build bridges to business and industry for students, teachers and other educational staff.

The first of today's three initiatives will strengthen existing ties among education, business and industry and will develop new links to promote current and up-to-date vocational relevance. This initiative will provide encouragement to schools, business and industry to become true partners in permitting students, school staff and people in business and industry to work side by side to the mutual benefit of all partners.

It is essential that the Ontario Ministry of Education assist with the creation of an environment that allows teachers to update their awareness and expertise in the specialized fields of business and industry and allows employers to update their understanding of our school system.

Many school boards have undertaken initiatives to foster such school/business links and we

recognize the importance of broader application of such initiatives. The government, therefore, will develop methods to encourage school boards to create programs appropriate to local needs, such as community economic development corporations.

Under this model, for example, a school board and local business and industry work together to provide training and related services in the development of enterprises uniquely tailored to the needs of the local community. This results in real and permanent economic development and employment.

As a first step, the Ontario Ministry of Education will circulate by September 1986 a listing of models for board/local business co-operation. We will not advocate one model to school boards. Only a local board can identify that which will work best in its community environment.

This government will set aside \$1 million a year for the next two years as a fund to which school boards may apply for assistance in implementing models for school board/local business co-operation. As well, the Ministry of Education will be developing a program of secondment for secondary school teachers to local business and industry.

2:30 p.m.

A second initiative will also strengthen the educational system's bridge to industry. Our students often see themselves as potential employees and possible managers, but rarely as future entrepreneurs. It is time to expand their horizons. They must be provided with the opportunity to acquire the motivation and skills necessary to initiate and develop new enterprises.

Today's companies also want employees with entrepreneurial qualities: employees who are creative thinkers, self-starters, problem-solvers and who can provide ideas on how work can be done differently, better and more productively. Consistent with our commitment to provide students with the broadest and best education possible, we will develop innovative courses in entrepreneurial studies.

I am pleased to announce that this government will set aside \$200,000 for the development of two entrepreneurial studies credit courses for grades 11 and 12. These courses will complement existing business study courses. The preparation of materials will be completed in consultation with provincial business associations and university and community college

personnel who are already working in the area of entrepreneurial studies.

Implementation of these courses at the local level will include opportunities for co-operation with excellent initiatives already under way, such as Junior Achievement and the student venture capital programs.

The third initiative addresses the need of many students who too often lack information about the steps of a job search. Although we can ensure the best education for all Ontario students, they still require knowledge of current labour market opportunities, job search techniques, résumé writing, interview skills and access to a directory of related educational and training programs.

We propose, therefore, to make available a computerized job search program that will provide ready and easy access to the information our students need today. We estimate the cost of providing this computerized program to be \$600,000. This computer software package will be linked into the current and future network of technology in Ontario schools and will take a student through all steps of a job search.

The program will be widely available, simple to use and fully interactive; will provide interview simulations and generic job profiles; will allow the drafting of a résumé and letters of application and provide hard copy, and will be appropriate for use by students in grade 7 and up.

We expect the testing of the software package to begin early in 1987 and to be ready for the school year 1987-88.

Mr. Speaker, for your benefit and the benefit of my colleagues, particularly those in the third party who, naturally, may not understand what we intend to do here, the Ontario Ministry of Education believes strongly in our excellent school system. We believe these new bridges to business and industry will be of great assistance to all our students, teachers, school boards and business communities.

Mr. Davis: No wonder the Premier was yawning when the Minister of Education indicated the new programs. We are happy to receive his statement because we would like to thank him for acknowledging the programs the Progressive Conservative Party has already initiated.

I point out to my learned colleagues across the House that the program known as the student guidance information service, SGIS, the computer program for helping young people find jobs, already exists. I assume the minister means he is going to make an extension of that program; anything less than that extension is a waste of money and time.

His program to encourage business entrepreneurs has already been initiated in the community industrial training councils. We thank him for continuing the programs we had already initiated.

Mr. Allen: While I applaud the initiative of the Minister of Education with respect to increasing the intimate relations between school boards and industry and for the development of two new courses in the system for entrepreneurial studies, I call his attention to two facts. First, the problem in bridging school to work is that too many kids go across it too soon and too fast to work. If one looks at the nonacademic stream, where there is a greater than 60 per cent drop-out rate, the important thing in their training is to keep the students in school. I hope the minister will be targeting that as a significant fact to address.

Second, there are boards that have labour study programs on their books, but they have not been implemented at this time. I wonder whether the minister would be prepared to engage in an equivalent initiative at that level with respect to the entrepreneurial studies he has been developing.

2:40 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: The allotted time for responses has expired. The next item will be oral questions. While the matter of supplementary questions has been left to the discretion of the Speaker, the new standing orders set out very precise guidelines. The official opposition and the third party are each to be allowed two leadoff questions with two supplementaries to each question. In each case, the supplementary shall be confined to the party of which a member has asked the original question.

Following these leadoff questions, each member asking a question will be confined to one supplementary, after which the Speaker will call for the next question. I point out, as I pointed out yesterday, that under standing order 19a, every member desiring to speak must rise in his or her place and address himself or herself to the Speaker. I say this because I feel that if the question is directed properly through the Speaker and the response is directed properly through the Speaker, we may find we do not have the direct interplay that we sometimes encounter. I ask the members to address the Speaker, and if they do not, I will remind them.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for you. You may wish to refer it,

however, to the Premier (Mr. Peterson). Given that Dr. Ian Munro, one of the world's top facial reconstruction surgeons and someone who has done marvellous work for the young people of Ontario, who is currently practising at the Hospital for Sick Children, has announced his intention to move to the United States, thus depriving thousands of Ontario children of his services, I wonder whether the Premier is yet ready to concede that his government's legislation banning extra billing will result in a loss of doctors from Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have an answer for you. I remind the honourable member opposite, who addressed the question to me through you, sir, and back through you to him, that there is nothing unexpected about this situation. I am not sure whether he was the Minister of Health on February 17, 1984, but I can read the press reports to the member from that time, some time before we became involved in this current discussion, which said, "Dr. Munro, a cranial, facial plastic surgeon with a worldwide reputation for his work on the reconstruction of faces of children at the Hospital for Sick Children, is part of the exodus to the United States."

This is something he contemplated for some time, and I assume it relates back to the introduction of the Canada Health Act, which was supported by all three federal parties.

Mr. Grossman: I have the report from 1984, when Dr. Munro first indicated he might leave Ontario. Indeed, it indicates his concern about the Canada Health Act. The news article goes on to say, "Dr. Munro fears the federal government may impose financial penalties too expensive for provinces to pay, thus forcing them to comply with the new Canada Health Act. If that happens, Dr. Munro says he will leave."

Since the Premier knows he has the option of deciding not to proceed with extra billing at this time, and since he knows he has the option of having further negotiations with the doctors to see whether he can reach a compromise agreement, will he therefore agree that it is within his power as Premier of Ontario to stop the exodus of Dr. Munro by stopping this war on extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have never had any indication from Dr. Munro that I have the power to control his life. The member may feel he has that power, but I do not feel I have that power. I chatted with Dr. Munro some months ago about the health care system. He has lots of interesting contributions to make in that regard. I regard the hour I spent with him as very worth while.

The member is asking whether I am going to withdraw the bill. The answer is no. He will be aware, as I am, that one of the things discussed was merit pay for special doctors such as Ian Munro, or an excellence fund to compensate in this kind of situation. I gather from what I read that the Ontario Medical Association has rejected that. If the member wants to take that back to the OMA, he can convey that suggestion. It may be helpful in a situation such as this.

Mr. Grossman: If the Premier is not prepared to admit that this legislation is likely to cause a loss of doctors such as Dr. Munro from Ontario, if he does not believe that is going to happen, why did he offer the following to the OMA last week, through his chief negotiator the Attorney General (Mr. Scott): "The government recognizes that a special combination of health care facilities, research and teaching opportunities and personal compensation attract and retain"—here is the Premier's favourite word—"world-class physicians"? The Attorney General went on to offer, "The government proposes to establish a special fund to attract and retain world-class physicians." If he does not believe this legislation is causing some of these world-class physicians to leave Ontario, why did he make that offer to the OMA last week?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My friend opposite is trying to give the impression that Dr. Munro is motivated by money alone. I do not accept that for a moment. I have to rise in his defence on this occasion.

Mr. Gillies: You did that.

Mr. Grossman: You did that.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is what the honourable member is doing. This is still a free country. We recognize excellence, as he knows. I am sure he would be the first to stand in this House and admit that extra billing has nothing to do with excellence, or with seniority for that matter. Any doctor who wants to extra bill can. We recognize that the OMA schedule could perhaps be adjusted—it is in the hands of the OMA—or that the Ontario health insurance plan schedule could be adjusted to reward seniority or special excellence. We have initiated these discussions, and if the OMA wants to take advantage—

Miss Stephenson: It does not pertain to the OMA.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My friend opposite, the Treasury critic, does not agree with me. I hope she does not, because if she did I would know I was wrong. She is living proof that opted-out doctors have nothing to do with any particular

form of expertise. Our system would have a component that we are prepared to discuss with the OMA.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier's flippancy and disdain for the medical profession of this province, including for my colleague, is an absolute disgrace.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Grossman: Is the Premier still committed to preventing physicians from charging more than the OHIP rates permit?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sorry. I missed that question. Will the member help me by repeating the question?

Mr. Grossman: Is the Premier still committed to preventing physicians from charging more than the OHIP rate permits?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are committed to ending extra billing for patients. There is no question about that. We are going to move on that and we are trying to work out a system. The member is aware of some of the discussions that have taken place. We are waiting at this moment for a response from the OMA, and we will wait to hear it.

Mr. Grossman: I am not sure what the Premier said in his response a moment ago, but if he is still committed to preventing doctors from charging more than the OHIP rate, why did the Attorney General, his chief negotiator, make a proposal to the OMA last week, which reads as follows: "The government believes that there are circumstances in which it may be appropriate to provide payments to designated physicians beyond those currently made by the plan. Examples may include physicians currently charging more than plan rates and others."

What is the government's position? Is the Premier still determined to prevent doctors from charging and receiving compensation above the OHIP rate, or has he changed—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to my honourable friend opposite, I do not think he listened to the response I gave to his first series of questions or to what I just answered in that respect. As I said, and I will repeat it—I will write it down for him if it will be helpful—we are committed to ending extra billing of patients.

At the same time, we said there are certain problems in the payment schedule. As the member is well aware, that has been discussed

for a long time. There have been constant complaints that the system does not reward seniority, special expertise or excellence. We are prepared to sit down and work these things out with the OMA, if it wants to. As I read it, it has rejected this approach at the moment, but we remain hopeful.

Mr. Grossman: It appears the Premier's position is that he is committed to preventing physicians from charging more than the OHIP rate, but that he is prepared to negotiate that and perhaps step back from his commitment and give them more money for expertise or to retain world-class physicians. If that is the case, since he has abandoned his commitment, is he now prepared to introduce amendments to Bill 94 that would reflect his current and new belief that certain doctors ought to be paid more than others and that certain doctors should be allowed to charge more than OHIP? That is what his last answer said.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect, that is nonsense. That is the most contorted set of logic I have heard in a long time. The member has returned to wearing spectacles and perhaps he can see better than he could a week or so ago, but he has not read or followed very clearly what we have been discussing with the OMA. We are still hopeful we can work it out. He knows clearly where we stand on the issue. We are anxious to have a resolution with the doctors. We are going to continue to talk with them.

Mr. Rae: On the question of extra billing, I understand the Premier told the press yesterday that there remains the basic difference, as he understands it, between the government and the OMA and that the government is committed to ending extra billing and the OMA is not. If that is the case, and there is every signal, publicly and privately from the OMA, that it is not prepared to negotiate an end to extra billing, will the Premier explain to the rest of us the logic of his suggestion yesterday of appointing some independent mediator to mediate between these two positions? What is the middle ground between an end to extra billing and a continuation of extra billing? What precisely is the middle ground? Does he not agree that it is not a middle ground at all but really a—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I did not suggest appointing a mediator and I want the member to be very clear on that. At the same time, if somebody has a constructive idea on how to get a

meeting of the minds on this issue, I will be very happy to hear it.

I remind the member that in spite of the serious difference of opinion, which I do not underestimate for a moment, the Ontario Medical Association and the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) are still talking. I do not know when the next meeting is scheduled, but as I understand it, the OMA will be coming back with some ideas in writing.

As long as there is hope, we are anxious to negotiate a way in this situation. That is where we stand. I do not know how many times I have to repeat that in this House, but I am prepared to repeat it as many times as the member wants me to. At this moment, I have not chosen to follow the member's advice to reject any possibility of a settlement by moving now on the legislation.

Mr. Rae: The Premier should hardly be surprised that the OMA is willing to talk. It is in their interest to delay. Right now, delay is the friend of extra billing. Extra billing is being sustained by the very process of delay in which the Premier is so actively participating.

While the government has the right, through its agreement with the Tories with respect to the ordering of the standing committee on social development, to put Bill 30 and the question of separate school funding ahead of Bill 94, would the Premier not agree that this House, sitting in committee of the whole House, could consider Bill 94 virtually as soon as the government wanted to? What precisely is his objection to setting a timetable for the legislation, which will surely be a signal to the OMA that the government is serious with respect to the principle of ending extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me assure the member that the OMA knows we are serious. One of the problems is that in the past it was dealing with a government it perhaps did not take as seriously as it takes this one. That is the reality. There were many who felt they could just show up and have their way. They are now persuaded of the seriousness and earnestness of our position. They know exactly where we stand on the issue.

Where I guess I differ from the member—I might even say I am a mite surprised at his view, as one who believes in free collective bargaining and a democratic system and one who would have seen many situations arbitrated and negotiated over a period of time—is that he would want to shut this off arbitrarily. What I say to him is that in our judgement—and we may very well be wrong and we stand to be criticized, depending

on the results—we think it is still worth trying. The minute I feel it is not worth trying to negotiate this, I will come into this House and say: “We can go no further. We are at an impasse and we are ready to legislate.” That is where this government stands.

Mr. Rae: Is the Premier aware of the comments made in the press today, saying—I am quoting from the *Toronto Star*—“A top OMA official said that Peterson’s uncertainty shows the negotiations have made ‘some progress,’ the *Star*’s Jonathan Ferguson reports”?

Is the Premier not aware that the signal that his government’s various proposals and all the ideas he has allowed himself to talk about out loud, the various proposals that have been signalled in the press, from the health care tax to the proposal of the \$53-million slush fund, to the endless process of negotiations and talks that have gone on, with no time frame set, endlessly muddling through discussing all subjects under the sun and yet never cutting the circle with respect to the question of extra billing—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: —accomplishes only two things: \$1 million a week for patients and a signal to the medical profession and the OMA that this government is not serious with respect to the question of ending extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With respect to the honourable member’s first point, he is right; extra billing is continuing. I am told it is diminished in quantity, but I cannot prove that point to him at the moment. It is a problem. I wish it were not there, but we are trying to deal with that situation in that context. We cannot rewrite 20 years of history on this matter at this point. We are moving as quickly as we think is reasonable in the circumstances.

With respect to his second point, we believe the OMA is very sure of where we stand on the issue, as are the people of this province. Everywhere I travel, people speak to me about this issue and I get lots of comments. I believe they are generally in support of the kind of view we are taking, but they also are fair-minded and want, if possible, a reasonable settlement.

3 p.m.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Rae: I go back to the Premier, but on another subject, the question of gas prices. The *Toronto Star* has quoted the executive vice-president of Shell as saying that while the cost of gasoline has fallen by 10 to 12 cents a litre, the

company has dropped its prices by only eight cents a litre. He admits they are pocketing two or three cents.

Given the statement yesterday by his minister that the Legislature does have the power with respect to gas prices in this province, can the Premier explain why the province has not moved to control gas prices when today they are at 39.3 cents and 39.9 cents in Windsor, 44.3 cents in Sudbury and 45.5 cents in Echo Bay? They are far higher all over the province than any market analyst says they should be. Can the Premier explain why, even today, he is refusing to act on behalf of consumers with respect to this gouging by the oil companies?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I probably inadvertently misled people through my own lack of knowledge about our power. We do not have the legislation in place, but we could pass legislation. I want to clear up any mistakes I have made in that regard. I apologize for that.

Second, my understanding is that at present there are two provinces which regulate gasoline prices. I have had some very interesting discussions with the esteemed Premier of Manitoba on this issue. It is a difficult issue for every province. One of the realities one finds in a province such as Nova Scotia, which has regulated gasoline prices, is that consumers are paying net, tax out, much higher prices than where the free market operates as a general principle.

That said, the honourable member is quite correct that the market does not operate in the same way everywhere. We see, even in a period of very high prices in gasoline, some very cut-throat gas price wars, from which the consumer gets the benefit. But he is right, that is not always the case in Echo Bay, Terrace Bay or Ear Falls.

We are monitoring that very carefully. The minister can give the member more information on how to make sure the benefits that can come from not regulating the market are spread evenly about the province.

Mr. Rae: Is the Premier aware that the president of BP was quoted on March 21 as saying—and this is not a member of the New Democratic Party research team; this is the president of BP:

“There is no justification for an Ontario service station price above 40 cents a litre. If they operated at a low profit margin, as they have for years, they would only charge 35 cents a litre.”

To focus simply on the question of southern Ontario, in Windsor it was 39.9 cents and in

Toronto it was 39.9 cents right through the city in the survey we did this morning.

Can the Premier explain the fact that today, according to the president of BP, the market analyst I am using as an example, prices in southern Ontario are almost five cents higher than they would be if the companies were operating at a lower profit margin? Given this discrepancy, does the Premier not think it is time he intervened on behalf of consumers?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the member is asking for regulation of the market, that we set all the prices here, the experience is that this will result, on balance, in a higher price for the consumer, not a lower price. That is the experience in Nova Scotia. If we were persuaded that we could deliver to the consumer a cheaper litre of gasoline by regulating that, we would look at the situation. We are trying to cure some of the disparities across the province in this regard. However, I do not think the member has the magic solution to this. Frankly, no other province has found the magic solution to it.

Mr. Rae: The government's own reports suggest that if one takes distance into consideration, the differential between north and south should be only one and a half cents. The evidence today is that the price spread between north and south in this province is as high as seven cents.

The Premier has now been in government for a substantial length of time. He made a commitment with respect to northern gas prices. Is he prepared to live up to that commitment? Is he prepared to announce measures that will, at the very least, ensure that northern Ontarians, who have to travel greater distances and who end up paying far more in transportation costs than those in the south, will no longer be ripped off and gouged by a system that charges them as much as seven cents a litre more for gasoline?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me be helpful. It is not just a differential between the north and the south; it is between the north and the north. In certain communities in the north, it is much cheaper than in other communities in the north.

Mr. Foulds: Therefore, two injustices mean you cannot do anything.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not trying to justify it. I am saying it is a practical example of how the marketplace works.

Mr. Martel: He is no different from the Tories.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I know it is not easy to impress upon socialists how the marketplace works. I do not want to give them an economics

201 primer in this situation. I am sure they understand that as well. Our challenge is to make sure those benefits are equally spread out. The member will be aware that we have commissioned a report in this regard. I understand the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) will be holding hearings shortly in northern Ontario with respect to these disparities that bother us all.

APARTMENT CONVERSIONS

Mr. McFadden: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Two days from now, more than 100 tenants are threatened with eviction from their affordable-housing apartments in four buildings on Sherwood Avenue in Toronto because their landlord wishes to convert their apartment units to luxury apartments. Many of the tenants are senior citizens who will have absolutely nowhere to go if they are forced out on the street. A number of the seniors are here in the gallery today to express their concerns about their plight directly to this House.

I have raised this issue on several occasions since last November. What steps is the government prepared to take on an emergency basis to deal with the problem these disheartened and worried people, and others like them, now face?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I want to thank the member for that question. I am very concerned about those tenants who are being subjected to eviction because of conversions or any other means of losing their places to live. I have responded to the member in the past about steps we are taking. I am concerned about taking very ad hoc solutions to these things. Very shortly, we will be addressing that issue. We hope to address all the situations that exist and with which we are being presented now.

Mr. Gordon: While the minister might express concern, these women are in the autumn years. They should not have to be worrying about whether they are going to have a roof over their heads at the end of April. Is the minister going to bring in specific legislation that will deal with low-cost rental apartments being turned into luxury apartments and with women being put out on the street like this?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I do not like to rise in the House and say where the fault or the blame is, for all the years that the problem was sitting over with the government.

Mr. Davis: You are the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Curling: In that portfolio, there were very intelligent and presumably very sensitive individuals; they took no action. What we are left with today is this problem that has landed on our doorstep and they want action right now. The way we have approached this in the last eight or nine months will resolve many of the problems. We are addressing it in a much more sensitive manner than the opposition party did in the past 42 years.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. For some time, the governments of Canada, the United States, the state of New York and Ontario have been attempting to negotiate an agreement concerning the cleanup of the Niagara River. I am sure all members welcomed the recent statements in the press by the minister that he would not sign an agreement that was less than satisfactory.

3:10 p.m.

Given the very deferential attitude of the Prime Minister of Canada to the government of the US and his willingness in the case of acid rain to sign an agreement that contained no specific targets and no detailed plans, can the Minister of the Environment give an assurance to this House that he will not sign on behalf of this government, any agreement that does not contain detailed plans and a specific schedule for reducing the volume of contaminants in the Niagara River?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am pleased the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier), the New Democratic Party critic, supports the position of the government in this matter. It was my position in the negotiations which involved four parties. I know the member understands that the United States Environmental Protection Agency at the national level, the Department of Environmental Conservation in New York state, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada are involved in these negotiations.

As minister, I have instructed our negotiators to come forward with a plan or attempt to have a four-party cleanup plan which encompasses all that we in Ontario want. Included in that is a specific schedule for the reduction of the toxic loadings to the Niagara River. Any plan that does not contemplate such a reduction in those loadings to the Niagara River is not a plan which will be acceptable to the people of this province, three and a half million of whom consume water from Lake Ontario.

Mrs. Grier: That is somewhat reassuring, but I say to the minister—

Mr. Speaker: By way of a question.

Mrs. Grier: —by way of a question, that it is now two years since the Niagara River Toxics Committee reported. It appears that the minister, just like his predecessors, has made no progress towards convincing the US to excavate and remove those dumps. There are about 400 or 500 on the Superfund list for excavation.

Can he tell the House what action he intends to take to ensure that the US government will initiate the removal and the excavation of those dumps which pose such an enormous threat to the waters of Lake Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No doubt the member is aware that the Ontario government, through the Ministry of the Environment, intervenes on as many occasions as possible. For instance, in the Hyde Park dump situation, I have directed a letter to the US appropriate authorities intervening on behalf of the province.

In all the negotiations, including my discussions with Lee Thomas of the EPA and Hank Williams, the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation in New York state, I have made it clear the position of Ontario is that the ultimate solution to the dump sites which are immediately adjacent to the Niagara River is excavation. I am pleased that the member supports the position of the province. I cannot accept the blame for the Americans not accepting the point of view that we are putting forward. The member is justified in expressing criticism of those who are in the negotiating process who do not feel, as we do in Ontario, that the dumps must be cleaned up, that extensive monitoring must take place and that there must be a reduction schedule.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Minister of Education about the special education program that he has a responsibility for administering in this province.

What policies and programs has the minister put into place to guarantee that such services as speech pathology and speech therapy are made available to those boys and girls in our school system who have need of them so that they can successfully complete their school terms? More important, what steps or procedures has he taken to make sure those same services—speech pathology and speech therapy services—are available to every boy and girl in this province, regardless of whether he or she lives in Pembroke, Iroquois Falls, eastern Ontario, northern Ontario or rural Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, through you to the honourable critic at large, as Minister of Education I have carried forward the excellent initiative brought forward six years ago by his colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson). We have made some changes, as he will know. In the summer of 1985, I instituted an external review committee to examine some of the very special situations that we encountered as we approached September 1985, the year at which the five-year phase-in of the special education Bill 82 was to have been in place.

We have continued what I believe to be a very appropriate level of funding. I recognize that the whole field of special education continues to require very close monitoring and review. It is for that reason we have just released a discussion paper about the processes and practices under the legislation. That discussion paper is currently before the education community and I expect to be introducing adjustments and amendments to the legislation later this year.

Mr. Pope: Those are very glowing words, but what the boys and girls of this province require is proper management of the special education program for their benefit, regardless of where they live.

Don Werner, whom the Minister of Education put into the special education branch of his ministry on January 17 of this year, said the following to Mrs. Colette Grant in Iroquois Falls about her seven-year-old daughter Shelly-Ann, who requires speech pathology services: "I am not making this comment flippantly. You have elected to live in the north where there are no services and if you do not like it, then I suggest you move south."

Is that the policy of the ministry branch? Is that the policy the Minister of Education is espousing? If not, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Conway: That is not the policy of this government. I am sure the critic at large, the member for Cochrane South, will want to share that information with me. I can assure the honourable member I will investigate fully and immediately and report back to him and this House very directly.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Ronald Reagan has submitted his wish list for free trade negotiations. Many of the items on that list directly affect Ontario, including increased access to the Canadian market for US companies to provincial government contracts, reduction of

government subsidies and support to industry, resolution of trade disputes, including softwood lumber and agriculture, and assurances that the provinces endorse the resulting trade agreement.

Can the minister tell us whether his government would sign such an agreement?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: As has been said in the past on several occasions, when it comes to such issues as the cultural industry, social programs, research and development, agriculture, the auto pact and financial services, we do not believe those issues should be on the table.

Mr. Mackenzie: The Ontario government currently has two procurement policies to assist and promote Canadian business and Canadian content in the procurement process. They are the Canadian preference policy and the industrial development review policy which are designed towards import replacement and job creation. Can the minister tell us if he is prepared to have these policies abandoned as bargaining chips in the free trade talks? If not, will that end the free trade talks?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: We will be looking very carefully at any suggestions that are discussed by the parties in their discussions.

I might also say that the Globe and Mail article is correct. The very last goal listed in that article read, "Assurance that the Canadian provinces sign on to a trade agreement." That has been asked for by the President and it means we will have to agree to any agreements that are made.

SPILLS BILL

Mr. McLean: We had a spill of about 200 gallons of used engine oil into the Green River yesterday. This is just downstream from the source of supply of drinking water to the municipality of Washago in the riding of Simcoe East. My understanding is that the Ministry of the Environment does not intend to proceed with an investigation into this spill under Bill 24, part IX of the Environmental Protection Act, the spills bill. Would the minister tell this House if this is the case?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In all situations of this kind, an investigation does take place. There are two specific areas, perhaps even more, under which charges can be laid if there is sufficient evidence. The first is under the provisions of the spills bill.

3:20 p.m.

The spills bill does not deal specifically with negligence in terms of a violation. That comes under another section of the Environmental

Protection Act. The bill deals with immediate notification, for instance, and also deals with immediate cleanup and the restoration aspect. Those aspects come under the spills bill, which is part IX of the Environmental Protection Act.

However, there are other aspects of the Environmental Protection Act under which an investigation can take place and charges can be laid. I assure the member, because I think he has a genuine concern about a problem in his constituency, that we will do a full investigation. If there is sufficient evidence to determine that a charge would be appropriate, I am most certainly prepared to take that action.

Mr. McLean: We have had several major spills in Ontario since the proclamation of part IX. I will refresh the minister's memory. There was the CP Rail spill in MacTier, just north of my riding, earlier this year; one near Callander; one on Highway 401 at the James Snow Parkway overpass near Milton; and the most recent one in Timmins.

Can the minister tell this House how many charges have been laid under this section of the act, and will he explain the procedure for laying the charges? I feel the people of Ontario and of the riding of Simcoe East are entitled to assurances under this act.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am very pleased that members of the Progressive Conservative Party are now supporting the spills bill. When we first proclaimed the spills bill, a number of questions were forthcoming about the dire consequences of the bill, and there were those on that side of the House who joined with one of the largest and most effective lobbies in opposing this particular bill.

I will be pleased to gather the information requested by the member about the number of charges that have been laid. I will be prepared to provide for him as well a progress report on the precise status of the charges as they relate to court action.

EXTENDICARE LONDON NURSING HOME

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Health. It is not more than seven months since the first deaths occurred at the Extendicare London Nursing Home, in what was the worst tragedy of its kind in North American history. The minister will remember that on October 21 he indicated to my leader that he would not call a public inquiry, because it would slow down the coroner's inquest process.

As of today there has been no coroner's inquest. I would like the minister to justify to this

House such an incredible delay in the investigation of this tragedy.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I thank the honourable member for the question, but he is probably as aware as we are that the inquest itself is about to occur. In fact, I have spoken recently with the medical officer of health in Middlesex-London, Dr. Pudden, and others to make sure the preparations are in place for going ahead with that inquest. I look forward to the results of the review being done by the inquest. It is my understanding that the material that had to be generated for it is in place and that it is ready to proceed early in May.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That does not answer the question. It will be nine months by the time this inquest has been held. One of the rationales for not laying charges against this home at the time, based on Dr. Styliadis's report, was that the minister wanted to wait for the coroner's inquest. Yet on February 20 the minister wrote to me to say there had been a decision not to lay charges against this nursing home.

How can the minister justify the fact that there has been no coroner's inquest to date, no charges and, at this point, no report on the investigation by the inspection branch of the ministry that came out of this tragedy?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not have the mandate to ask the coroner to do certain things or not to do them. The coroner proceeds to do the inquest as he best deliberates on that particular matter. He is in full charge of it. Because of the necessity of maintaining the independence of the coroner, I will not be asking him to do certain things that I have no mandate to ask of him.

He will, I am sure, investigate this particular matter fully. We will receive a report from the inquest, as we do from other inquests held in the province, and we will respond to the report from that inquest procedure.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Gillies: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Is the minister aware of the comment by Simon Reisman that "Mr. Peterson released a paper that was misleading, and you can quote me"? He was referring to the Premier's supposed paper speaking to the possible loss of 280,000 jobs in Ontario because of a free trade deal. I would like to ask the minister whether he is aware of Mr. Reisman's comments and whether he agrees or disagrees with Mr. Reisman that the Premier's supposed paper was inaccurate.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Initial studies that have been done by our ministry and other parties indicate that up to 280,000 jobs could possibly be affected in those sectors.

Mr. Gillies: I am somewhat incredulous. The minister came into the House yesterday and last week saying he is in favour of free trade talks proceeding. His Premier is quoted as saying he thinks it is going to cost 280,000 jobs. If that is the case, why is the minister saying he is enthusiastic about the prospects of free trade for this province? Has his ministry done any studies that would indicate possible job gains in the province as a result of a freer trade arrangement?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe the honourable member is misinformed. If he will look at what was stated, we were talking about increased trade, not freer trade. I think every member in this House is for increased trade. If the member looks at the figures, he will see that trade has increased from approximately \$55 billion to close to \$59 billion or \$60 billion in this province. We are for increased trade with the United States.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. He will be aware that, under present legislation, the city of Etobicoke has been completely frustrated in stopping Sorrento Developments Ltd. from demolishing a 32-unit apartment building at 1025 Scarlett Road. Since eviction notices take effect this Saturday, what specific action is the minister going to take to save those tenants from being thrown out on the street?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I know the third party is very concerned about this. I am very happy too that the official opposition is coming on side in the concern about demolitions. As I have indicated in the House many times, we will be taking steps on issues and situations like those very soon.

Mr. Reville: The tenants on Scarlett Road have a gun to their heads, and so do tenants all across Ontario. Will the minister move to protect our housing stock and the tenants therein from the threats posed not only by demolitions but also by condominium conversions and co-ownership schemes? Will he introduce such legislation tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I presume I might be known as the man for action.

We started with demolitions; we talked about conversions; then we want legislation to include everything and the member wants it immediately. The legislation that will be introduced will take into consideration all those issues that allow affordable rental units to be depleted from our rental stock. That will be done as soon as possible.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Gillies: My question is again to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Yesterday in this House we debated the unemployment problems in Sault Ste. Marie. We could just as easily have been talking about Thunder Bay, Kingston, Brantford and Kenora, all of which are communities that have recently experienced increases in unemployment and layoffs. Thus far this year, there has been a 65 per cent increase in layoffs in this province. What is the ministry doing about it?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I think it has been very clearly expressed by the Premier over the past couple of days that if we are talking about jobs in the north, we have to expand our economic base there. We have to do everything possible, through the ministers, deputy ministers and staff, to create jobs in those regions. That is what we will be attempting to do.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: The communities I just named are in every part of this province, and not just in the north; they are also in eastern Ontario and in western Ontario. We are talking about 2,200 people laid off in January, 1,700 laid off in February and now another 1,500 to be laid off in Sault Ste. Marie.

Where are the minister's community adjustment plans? Where is his economic strategy? What is he going to do in the short term to benefit those people and their communities?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe I tried to cover jobs in the north and our real desire to create jobs there. If the honourable member wants to talk about the rest of the province, I can go to the unemployment statistics, which show that we have dropped to 6.8 per cent from 8.7 per cent in 1985, a reduction of almost two percentage points. I can quote the fact that 183,000 more jobs have been created, so let him look at the rest of the province.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Solicitor General. On March 31, the three-year funding

agreement that his ministry had with the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres ran out. Since that time, the funding to centres in Ontario has lapsed. Will he explain why to this House?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I am pleased to respond to the honourable member. I am very much aware of the fact that the three-year agreement ended on March 31. The last cheque to the coalition went out on that date.

We share with the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres the concern for any victim of sexual assault, and we know the service is still provided through all the many centres throughout Ontario. However, the matter of the funding of the coalition is a somewhat different issue, a more extended one, because in its request for funding this year, it is looking for more than three to four times the sum of money over the next three-year period, anywhere from some \$600,000 to \$800,000 in the third year.

The issue has been considered by five ministries and has had an extensive hearing before those ministries and before a committee of cabinet. I anticipate it will be dealt with by cabinet very shortly.

Ms. Gigantes: Whatever the problems there are with the specific request that has come forward and whatever decision is made with all these ministries, that is not the point at this stage. What is the minister going to do in the interim, until he gets it all together, to make sure that rape crisis centres do not have their telephone lines shut down, their rent unpaid and their services folded up?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I do not see the necessity of any interruption in the service provided by rape crisis centres since they do not depend upon their total funding from the government. The maximum funding from this government to any one rape crisis centre is in the vicinity of \$5,000 to \$13,000. These centres are also funded through municipal funding, through the United Way and through generous donations, and there should be no cessation whatsoever of services or shutting down of telephone lines. The matter of funding is basically related to the coalition itself. Tomorrow's meeting of cabinet may well resolve the issue.

COUNSELLING PROGRAM FOR WIFE ABUSERS

Mr. Baetz: I have a question for the Premier. On his recent visit to Ottawa, the Premier expressed great interest in and promised to personally review continued provincial funding for New Directions, an agency that has an

innovative counselling program for wife abusers. After having raised great expectations and lots of press coverage for continued provincial support to this worthy agency, why did he decide the program did not warrant further financial support from the province?

I would also like to know whether the Premier knows that this very worthwhile program would have collapsed because of his decision without short-term funding by the Ottawa-Carleton United Way, an agency that is much more sensitive to and aware of the value of this agency than is the Premier, in spite of his publicly expressed concern.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will take the editorial bias out of that question and respond to my colleague.

I was in Ottawa two or three weeks ago. To be very frank, I had never heard of New Directions. Although I missed the picket, I gather these people were picketing me at some point because they wanted to make a point, which is their absolute, legitimate right to do.

Someone then came to me—I guess it was a member of the press—and said, "What about these people at New Directions?" I said: "I have never heard of them. What is the problem?" He said, "They said it was a problem of funding." I said, "I am not aware of it, but I will look into it immediately." I went to my colleague who is responsible for those things, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and I said, "Will you tell me what the situation is?"

That is the background. I will refer it to my colleague to respond specifically to the honourable member's question.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: New Directions was set up as a voluntary agency. It was not funded by government. It did get into some financial difficulty, and this ministry gave it a \$15,000 grant last November to get it temporarily out of that difficulty. It was clearly identified that it was a one-shot grant solely for that purpose.

We have an advisory committee in the Ottawa area made up of all the participants in the family violence program; they represent the police, the agencies and the hospital. They are allocated \$250,000 to distribute with respect to a number of services above and beyond the transition houses.

The two people who run that specific program are on that committee. That committee decided that funds would not be allocated for this service. I understand it will be coming up again for review next month. At that time it may very well be that it will be funded, but first, it was not a decision

by this government to fund them completely, and second, it was not a decision by this government not to fund them subsequently.

Mr. Baetz: I find this very strange because the Ottawa-Carleton United Way, which is a very effective agency, well organized and well administered, did find that this agency was deserving of financial support. The citizens of Ottawa were encouraged that more provincial funding would be coming in view of the Premier's comments there.

Will the minister assure this House that he will pressure the Premier, who seems to be walking around with a lot of money in his back pockets—and we were delighted to see he found \$7 million last night for the Ontario Science Centre—so Ottawa can expect \$100,000 as an ongoing funding grant over the next year for this very worthwhile agency? Will the minister assure us he will press his Premier and the cabinet to make this happen?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Let the record show that this minister does not have to pressure the Premier to see to it that the people of this province have their needs met.

Mr. Davis: Does the minister mean the Premier does not run his ministry?

Mr. Gillies: The minister will have to press the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

Mr. McClellan: Just go to any soup kitchen, right?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Also, I remind the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz) that the advisory committee, the one that advises this ministry and the office of this ministry in the Ottawa area, represents all the people of Ottawa. This minister does not step into Ottawa and tell those people what to do; they provide the service.

We provide more than \$250,000, not just to the Ottawa area but also to the other three regional areas immediately around it. We provide the funds. The decision as to how to allocate those funds is made by that local advisory committee. If the honourable member is suggesting that we step in and interfere with local decision-making, then let him stand up and make that suggestion. We are not prepared to do that.

I would also tell the member that there is another service in the Ottawa area that—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

3:40 p.m.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is with some trepidation that I raise a question to the Minister

of Community and Social Services, who is obviously in high dudgeon today.

The minister is aware that a single, disabled individual in this province on the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled receives as much as \$278 a month less than a single senior to live on. It was announced in the throne speech that a task force to review all social assistance programs would be set up, yet there was no announcement about removing this glaring inequity. Is the task force going to be an excuse for taking no action until it reports, or are we to expect an announcement in the budget to help these people?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would remind my honourable colleague that part of the difference between what a senior gets and what a disabled person gets is the specific funding for seniors that comes from the federal government. The federal government has decided to give some additional funds. That is part of the answer.

The other part is a recognition that there is a difference. One of the reasons the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has authorized that a study be done of the entire income maintenance system in this province is to ensure that those kinds of discrepancies are ameliorated in the fairest and the most just way. That is one of the factors that will be considered as part of the study. We hope to have that completed before the end of this calendar year and also hope that changes will be made, as they normally are, at the beginning of the next calendar year.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I was afraid of that. I guess this means the minister now needs a task force even though a couple of years ago, when a young man who is now his seatmate was only a minister-in-hoping and when the present Premier was in the same kind of position, the now Premier said on April 2, 1984, that it was a glaring inequity, and the now Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) said, "This is a huge discrepancy in funding and should be ameliorated immediately." Why now does he need a task force when it was so clear in 1984?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My response was not intended to suggest in any way, and I do not believe I said, that we disagreed with the member that this inequity exists and it should not exist. The point of the review is there are number of similar inequities that have to be remedied. It is only in conjunction with the total program that the fairest and most just way of solving them can be found. We are not prepared to take an isolated part of that whole program and deal with it in isolation. That is not the best way to do it.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Davis: I have a question for the Minister of Education. Would the minister explain the reasons his new amendments will allow Roman Catholic school boards to fire public school teachers who transfer on the basis of there being no positions available in the separate school or for being conscientious objectors?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am happy to clear up the honourable member's apparent misunderstanding about the amendment in this connection. In response to some very constructive criticism which my friend from Scarborough Centre and my friend the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) brought to the committee, I introduced a new amendment. This has broadened the basis of protection for those public school teachers who have transferred because of an enrolment shift from the public to the extended separate school system. The additional criterion we have added is that of conscience.

Where a designated or transferred public school teacher finds himself or herself in the extended separate school system, that individual now has the right to refuse employment on the grounds of conscience. In that event, the separate school board involved must offer financial assistance and retraining to the conscientious objector. The only condition under which that designated teacher who is a conscientious objector can be terminated by the separate school board is where that conscientious objector refuses to accept employment for which he or she is now qualified as a result of the financial assistance or the retraining. That is the only condition.

I say again, we have responded to some very helpful suggestions made by the honourable member. We have broadened the basis of the protection that is the intent of the amendment and to the extent the member needs further clarification—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question period went very well. However, I noticed that if some of the questions were long, some of the answers that flowed were also long and, in turn, the questions became a little longer. I hope we can correct that over the next few days.

REFERRAL OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, could you help clarify the position of answering questions? First, let me compliment you on the handling of the rules on the first day that they have been

brought in. I thought the new procedures went very well.

I have one point, and I did not want to interrupt question period with it. On a couple of occasions, the Premier has seen fit to take 30 seconds or a minute to answer a question and then refer it. I question whether, indeed, that is the intent of referring the question. Either he refers it or he does not. I am asking for some direction from you and for you to look into it. Otherwise, we could have three ministers answering one question. That may or may not be the intent, but I submit to you it is not our intent.

Mr. Speaker: The member makes a reasonable point and I will watch for that in the future.

PETITIONS

NATUROPATHY

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have a petition signed by 98 people indicating that, as concerned citizens, they urgently request, in accordance with their constitutional rights, to have available and to choose the health care system of their preference, requesting that the naturopaths of Ontario be guaranteed through an act of the Ontario Legislature their right to practise their art and science to the fullest, without prejudice or harassment, and endorsing and supporting the concepts and philosophy of naturopathic medicine and seeking the assistance of this Legislature in this important matter.

GASOLINE TAX

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I have a cold; I must apologize. I have a petition to the Treasurer of Ontario.

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre, from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre, immediately, and to phase a further reduction over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

It is signed by 559 people.

Ms. Smith: I have a petition signed individually by 301 people requesting a decrease in the tax on gas of 1.01 cents in keeping with the ad valorem formula.

MOTION

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that, notwithstanding any standing order, the House meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

3:50 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

WATERLOO-GUELPH REGIONAL AIRPORT ACT

Mr. Epp moved first reading of Bill Pr42, An Act respecting the Waterloo-Guelph Regional Airport.

Motion agreed to.

BRANTFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL ACT

Mr. Gillies moved first reading of Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the Brantford General Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

SCARBOROUGH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT

Mr. Warner moved first reading of Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the Public Utilities Commission of the City of Scarborough.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Offer moved first reading of Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF LONDON ACT

Ms. E. J. Smith moved first reading of Bill Pr28, An Act respecting the City of London.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Consideration of the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mr. Polsinelli, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of the Order of St. John, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, bachelor of arts, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Ward: It is an honour and a privilege to move adoption of the speech from the throne. It is all the more gratifying because it presents me with an opportunity to formally acknowledge and compliment the Lieutenant Governor on his

appointment as Her Majesty's representative in Ontario.

I do so with considerable pride in the fact that His Honour is from the same great region of this province that it is my pleasure to represent. He is a man who has already served and continues to serve his community, his province and his country with great dignity and dedication.

I also take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend you for the even-handed manner in which you have directed the proceedings of this House for the past year. You have done so with great presence, with a warm sense of humour, with tolerance, particularly for new members, with firmness and, most important, with fairness to all. The same can be said for the Deputy Speaker.

This is the first opportunity a member of my party has had to move adoption of the speech from the throne for many years. No doubt if the recent by-election is any indication, there will be further opportunities in the years ahead.

A few short months ago, this government assumed its great responsibilities without the ceremony and without the pageantry of a speech from the throne. Instead, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) delivered a ministerial statement which outlined the agenda for the first session of this parliament.

Since that time, the performance and the achievements of this government are there for all to see. Action clearly speaks louder than words, and this government has acted on many fronts with openness, vigour and courage. I am confident that the energy and enthusiasm that characterized the first session will continue and be readily apparent in the months ahead, as we continue to move on our agenda.

I am sure I speak for all the new members of this assembly when I say the past year has been exhilarating. It has been a year of great activity, a year of hard work, a year of surprises and at the same time a year of great satisfaction. All of us come here from varied backgrounds and sometimes differ fundamentally in our philosophy. At the same time we do share common goals, to serve our people, to earn the confidence they have placed in us and to do what is in the best interests of our community and of our province. Obviously, we will differ in determining how those goals can best be achieved, but that which we share is a much greater purpose than that which divides us.

Coming from a municipal background, from a political arena in which partisan differences play virtually no part, I must confess to having had

some reservations about the parliamentary process and the constraints that are naturally a part of this system. Yet, in the last year, it has been evident that partisanship does not encompass everything we do.

4 p.m.

Yesterday, the members of this assembly adopted meaningful changes to the rules of this House. These changes are long overdue and undoubtedly will make the operations of this institution more relevant to today's Ontario. These changes will give members a greater chance to participate, to contribute their talents and to play a more meaningful role. At the same time, these changes are one example of how individually and collectively we can bring about constructive change. They were achieved not through blind partisanship, but through a process of co-operation and commitment and by working together to bring greater openness and accountability to this assembly. They stand as an example of how as legislators we can work together in attaining shared goals.

During the past session, one of the most challenging tasks I had to undertake as a new member was to help develop a program to provide financial assistance to the residents of northern Ontario who have to travel significant distances to obtain appropriate medical care. I mention it not solely because it is a program that was developed by this government, although indeed it reflects our commitment to all regions of this province, but more important, I mention it because of the impact it had on me as the new member for Wentworth North, who learned quickly of some of the disparities in certain regions of this province.

I also learned I could share the concerns, not only of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), but also of the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and even the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier). As members, we can have our differences, we can fight our battles and from time to time we can take some credit; but by sharing some common goals, we can make a difference and do things that make this province a better place in which to live.

As a new member, one cannot help but be impressed by the ceremony and traditions that characterize the proceedings of this assembly. The speech from the throne is but one of them. Traditionally, the speech sets out the agenda the government intends to follow in addressing the needs of this great province.

In preparing for this debate, I took the opportunity to search the legislative library for

past speeches from the throne and the reactions they generated. I had even hoped to be able to make some references to the last Liberal speech from the throne, even though it was delivered several years before I was. It was a great disappointment to discover the throne speech of 1943 was read before the days of Hansard in this Legislature. The only comfort that can be taken from that bit of trivia is that perhaps at some point in the second decade of the next century some new member of this House may approach the legislative library in an attempt to obtain a videotape of the last Progressive Conservative throne speech, only to discover it predates the days of electronic Hansard.

In researching some of the past throne speeches, I found it interesting to note how they have differed in content and yet the reactions they have generated provided great consistency. They were all either too long or too brief, too specific or too vague. In addition, throne speeches in recent years have tended to generate not a small amount of cynicism.

It seems that in the recent past, the government of this province felt it was sufficient to promise necessary programs but never deliver on those promises. I think back to the last session and the protest when ministers of this government would rise in the House to announce programs that were in the throne speech of last May. Two examples that quickly come to mind are the announcement of the interest rate relief program for our farm community and the integrated homemaker program for our elderly.

What seems to have been forgotten by some members who have now moved to different pastures is that these programs were promised not only in the speech from the throne on May 1985, but also in those of 1983 and 1981 and who knows how many other times along the trails that lead to elections. The point is, it is not enough to deliver only promises. Governments are rightfully judged not solely by what they say, but rather by what they do. This government has and will continue to back its words by its actions.

Ten months ago, the Premier gave a commitment to the people of this province to openness, compassion and competence. That commitment has been and will continue to be fulfilled. During the past 10 months, more Ontarians have been given the opportunity to participate in and offer their input into the workings of this Legislature than those who have been elected to serve.

No doubt, there are those who lament the passing of the practices of years past when input was limited to the select few who represented

only narrow interests. That pattern has been broken and the people of this province will not tolerate its return. To date, this government has justified the confidence that has been placed in it and the confidence that continues to be extended to it by the people of Ontario.

His Honour's address clearly sets the course for the future. Gone are the days when government sought only to consolidate the past. It is not enough in any society for government to maintain the status quo and to resist change and progress. It was not so long ago that Ontario, like many other jurisdictions, suffered from rampant inflation and a stagnant economy. By comparison, unemployment today, although undoubtedly still too high, is the lowest it has been in five years. Inflation has stabilized at four per cent. Investment spending has increased markedly and consumer confidence has grown.

In short, the current economic performance of Ontario is strong. It is imperative that this performance not only be maintained, but also that it be advanced. In the months and years ahead, we can strengthen our economic position only by ensuring that we have the ability to respond to the changing economic environment and by making certain Ontario remains competitive as technology changes. We can meet that goal only by continuing to increase the quality and relevance of our educational system and by ensuring that our young people have the necessary skills and expertise to adapt. It is a goal we as a government cannot attain alone. It will require the co-operation and participation not only of our educators, but also of our leaders in labour and business. This government is committed to pursuing and attaining that goal.

During the past several years, our once great post-secondary education institutions have suffered from the malaise and neglect that was so obviously reflected in the unwillingness of previous governments to fund adequately the system that is so vital to our future prosperity.

Last July we gave a commitment to begin the process of undoing the damage that had been done. We began to fulfil that commitment with the establishment of an excellence fund and an overall increase in expenditures for post-secondary education of the order of eight per cent. We will continue to fulfil that commitment by supporting excellence throughout our entire system with appropriate funding.

Last July the government promised the people of this province they could expect not only openness and competence, but also, equally as important, compassion. There is perhaps no

greater measure of a society's compassion than its willingness to provide universally accessible health care. In this country, we declared our willingness two decades ago to share as a society the costs of providing that care through universal health insurance. It is a shame that 20 years later that fact still comes as news to some people in this province.

In the last session, we began to honour that commitment not only by introducing legislation to end extra billing, but also by extending access through the introduction of the northern medical travel program. We have sought to remove further financial barriers to universal health care by extending the assistive devices program, increasing hospital funding and extending further benefits under the Ontario health insurance plan.

4:10 p.m.

The greatest challenge we as a government and as a society face is to address the changing needs of an ageing society and the demands such changes place on our health care system. We have begun the task of meeting that challenge and we will continue by increasing community-based programs, by addressing the issues of capital funding and changing technology, by enhancing facilities for cancer treatment and by recognizing the necessity of placing a greater emphasis on preventive medicine.

In the past 10 months, we have made a significant beginning, which includes policies to ensure greater accountability, freedom of information, justice for women, improved rights for workers, affordable housing and, after years of divisive debate, equality of funding for the separate school system in this province.

In conclusion, I believe this government has put forward a constructive agenda that will address the needs of this province and that will provide a broad framework for the future, a future that will build upon a quality system of social services and upon the traditional strengths of our economy and a future that will continue to advance the principles of openness, compassion, opportunity and competence.

While we in this assembly will always be mindful of the contributions of those who have served before us, it is essential that we recognize that our task is not merely to chart the course of the past, but also to set the course for the future.

Mr. Polsinelli: It is an honour and a privilege for me to second the motion to adopt the speech from the throne.

Mr. Speaker, let me echo the sentiments of my colleague the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward) on the fair and impartial way you have

directed this always honourable assembly. I also congratulate the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on his appointment and on this occasion on his first address.

I am pleased to be joined on this side of the house by the newly elected member for York East (Ms. Hart). These are exciting times, and the member has much to look forward to as our government continues charting a new course for Ontario.

Let me also express again my thanks to the people of Yorkview for their support in the general election and for the confidence they expressed in me personally as their representative. I am mindful of the trust they placed in me and in this government and will do my utmost to respect their confidence.

The majority of the people in my riding do not list Canada as their place of origin, but they are among the proudest Canadians I know. In my opinion, Yorkview is the epitome of multiculturalism and proof that our system works. I witnessed this at first hand in the many community organizations that thrive there. Great strides have been made in bringing together people of many backgrounds, races and religions.

We as a government are committed to harnessing this goodwill and sense of purpose. The new race relations policy will encourage greater unity and harmony. Full participation in the economic and social mainstream for all minorities remains a cornerstone of this government's policy initiatives. Openness, accessibility and fairness are all watchwords of our government. These are all fundamental principles to which we have been and remain deeply committed.

This commitment is readily evident in the recent speech from the throne, which outlined specific measures that will further these policy objectives.

An important aspect of openness is the consultation process outlined in last fall's budget, which is being formalized through the establishment of a new legislative committee for this purpose. This is one of a number of procedural changes that will take place to increase the level of participation from all members of this Legislature.

To ensure fairness and accessibility for all Ontarians, we will continue to make appointments to agencies, boards and commissions which represent all groups in Ontario. These principles of fairness and impartiality will be carried into the realm of the Liquor Control

Board of Ontario, an area traditionally viewed with suspicion under the previous government.

The Liberal government has set out in this, its first throne speech in many years, a bold, progressive mandate for the people of this province.

We will move to improve the public's access to the justice system, regardless of income. We will introduce a series of programs to assist victims of crime and physical abuse. We will move to update policies to protect consumers and review existing legislation to make it more sensitive to consumer needs. We will move ahead to ensure enforcement of occupational health and safety standards in the work place. We will continue in our effort to provide a world-class system of care that is universally accessible as well as responsive to the changing demographics of the Ontario population.

Monsieur le Président, je suis fier de faire partie du gouvernement libéral Peterson et ce, pour plusieurs raisons. Mon gouvernement présentera sous peu sa loi garantissant des services en français à mes collègues francophones de l'Ontario. C'est le premier gouvernement à vraiment respecter les francophones de l'Ontario.

In synthesizing the merits of the throne speech, one cannot overlook its far-reaching and long-lasting impact. What we have before us is a program and framework designed to bring Ontario into the next decade and the next century. The blueprint for the changes envisaged challenges us to think of a future for our children and our seniors free of the shackles of government neglect and costly miscues.

The future I speak of is based on the pledge of this government to ensure that Ontario can adapt to the increasingly competitive world economy by harnessing new technologies. To this end, the Liberal government will provide a framework in which Ontario will become a world-class leader. For too long this nomenclature of world class escaped us. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) and this government have demonstrated that Ontarians deserve this distinction.

The Premier's strong voice on the free trade issue amply demonstrates that Ontario is now speaking with a renewed vigour. Complacency has no friend on this side of the House. In health care, labour, social services and the environment, this government has demonstrated vigilance in protecting the interests of Ontarians while caring for their needs. In greater measure, we will continue to do so.

Our government recognizes the importance of small business to the economic prosperity of this province. In 1984, 272,000 small businesses in Ontario provided more than 1.7 million jobs, representing 50 per cent of Ontario's private sector work force. It is the responsibility of government to encourage self-motivation and the ability to originate ideas about how things can be done better and more productively.

Our government is further committed to expanding opportunities for women, young people and minorities to enter the job market and the world of business. Steps have already been taken. The establishment of an Ontario investment network in co-operation with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce will provide a self-sustaining network that will help small businesses find out more about market conditions and government programs and encourage marriages between private equity investors and companies needing an infusion of capital.

Expanding the mandate of the small business development corporations to the service sector will also provide a new avenue of financial assistance to that sector. As a clear indication of this government's commitment to small business, a committee of parliamentary assistants was established to provide a positive, co-ordinated network and approach.

The committee is chaired by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and is composed of the parliamentary assistants to the Minister of Skills Development, the Minister of Treasury and Economics, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Minister of Labour and to the Premier. It is the first time in the history of Ontario that the government is using parliamentary assistants in this fashion.

4:20 p.m.

With the small business branch of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology serving as secretariat to the group, the committee will be a source of advice to the government on new ideas and will also evaluate existing programs. The committee, whose members represent ministries most closely concerned with the needs and problems of Ontario's entrepreneurs, has been meeting since January and connects key ministries which affect small business owners.

In the words of the chairman of the committee, my colleague from Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro): "We see our committee as a contact point for dialogue between the government and the small business community. Our mandate is to develop a process for reviewing existing regula-

tions and screening new legislation so these are as responsive as possible to the realities of doing business in Ontario."

We all recognize that small business has been at the forefront of new wealth and job creation. In order to enhance its ability to compete effectively and fairly in an increasingly competitive market, government must assist and complement its efforts.

We want to encourage business owners as they start an enterprise and strive to make it succeed. We hope to make the apparatus of government less confusing and intimidating to the business community than it may now appear. In particular, we need reform our tax system. This will contribute to enhanced equity in the tax structure while securing both social and economic objectives of the province.

On July 2, 1985, the Premier, in his first speech in the Legislature as Premier, said: "We will be bold in creating new jobs and vigilant in protecting those that now exist. We will fight for Ontario's interests and never let them be ignored. We will begin to reshape education to meet the needs of our society in a changing world."

Since then, we have learned that Ontario last year led Canada in new wealth and job creation. Over the past 12 months, Ontario employment has risen by 179,000 jobs. I refer that figure to the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), who indicated they were only statistics. There are 179,000 more people who are working this year.

Our seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 6.8 per cent, the lowest of all provinces. The unadjusted youth unemployment rate in this province for March was 13.2 per cent, down from 16.7 per cent a year earlier.

Urban housing starts for January through March were 66.5 per cent higher than in the same period in 1985. Retail sales in January and February were also up by 10.1 per cent over the same months last year. The outlook for the rest of the year is equally as bright.

The Premier and our government realize that sustained growth can continue only if we address the systemic problems of our economy. We will not rest on past accomplishments as others would have us do.

A Premier's council will be established to ensure Ontario's pre-eminence in an increasingly competitive world. Participants will be drawn from cabinet, the business community, labour and education. Together they will join the Premier in directing a \$1-billion special technology fund.

Among the tasks to be undertaken, the council will for the first time set broad-stroke provincial priorities for key industrial sectors. They will earmark and encourage investment in research and appropriate technology transfers.

The establishment and makeup of this council reflect two key determining factors: (1) future economic prosperity can come about only through the collaborative efforts of government, business, labour and educational institutions. (2) technology is to be harnessed, not as an end in itself, but rather as a means to effect social gains. Progress should only be measured in human terms.

Increased productivity should not be the sole criterion for the implementation and investment in new technologies. In our evolution to a post-industrial society, we must ensure that technology results in long-term job retention and in employment equity for women, the disabled and other disadvantaged members of our society. Older workers, the unemployed, youth and women will obtain increased access to training and skills upgrading, permitting them to participate more effectively and more productively as prospective entrepreneurs and employees.

In keeping with this mandate, educational institutions will be given additional resources to update programs and curriculums and provide job-relevant training. For the first time, the government of Ontario will seriously tackle the problem of functional illiteracy.

Our resource base lies in no one sector of the economy. Our primary resource is our people, their skills and their knowledge. We must harness that resource to its fullest potential. Our government is committed to taking Ontario forward as a strong and dynamic province, a leader in technology, education and economic development. One very important facet of this process is further development of the rich resources of northern Ontario. These resources include not only the abundant natural resources that have traditionally formed the economic base of northern Ontario, but valuable human resources as well.

The development of human resources, particularly the young and the native peoples, is necessary for the future of the north. To this end, we are committed to increased access to education. In part, this will be done by a major project to be undertaken in northern Ontario that will expand the use of new technologies to deliver educational services to remote communities. Coupled with this will be the establishment of a high school of science and technology in

northern Ontario. This high school will be integrated with the existing research and college and university facilities in the north to allow the development of the technologies that are necessary for northern growth.

In conjunction with these educational advances, our government will also undertake special efforts in the area of skills training, with particular emphasis on assistance for residents of remote communities and native groups. As well, a high priority will be placed on the retraining of workers. This will be of great assistance in northern communities that have felt the effects of changes to their economic base in recent years, as is evidenced by recent planned layoffs at Algoma.

Our government recognizes that the development of the human resource potential of the north cannot be done in isolation. It must be done in conjunction with industrial and economic development in northern Ontario. In recognition of this fact, we are undertaking measures to enhance the competitiveness of two important northern industries—agriculture and tourism.

In agriculture, a special program will be established that will provide marketing assistance to farmers in the north. The tourism industry will be enhanced by immediate additional funding for a tourism development program. The emphasis in the program will be assistance for the development of new business opportunities in the north.

A major thrust of government activity in the tourism industry will be the preparation of a long-term, comprehensive strategy to promote tourism in Ontario, especially in northern and eastern Ontario. This new strategy will include a number of initiatives that will be put in place in the very near future. This includes an aggressive new campaign for the promotion and marketing of the tourism industry and training programs to encourage visitors to Ontario to make repeat visits. Clearly, our government views northern Ontario and its residents as a vital and necessary part of Ontario's future as a world leader in economic development.

I have heard from sceptics on the other side of the House that our message has been echoed before. While I differ with their opinions, their sentiments bear further reflection. If the previous government had the wisdom to outline these initiatives, it surely lacked the political will to see them through. We lack no such commitment.

When the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) was sworn in as Premier, he pledged a government without walls or barriers, a govern-

ment open and accessible to all. I would like to quote from a recent editorial in *Share* newspaper written by Arnold A. Auguste, whose words I believe seem to capture this spirit in a nonpartisan way:

"I had cause to pause and reflect this past week on how far we have really come as a people in this country. This latest pausing and reflecting came as a result of my having to be at Queen's Park for two separate functions last week.

"The first was on Wednesday when I was invited to a small reception in the Premier's office for John Swan, the Premier of Bermuda, who was paying a courtesy call on Premier David Peterson.

"As I walked into the Legislative Building, I could not help but feel quite at home, which was strange since I really have not been there for some time. And I could not remember people there being so nice, so pleasant. Even the workmen moving busily about as they prepared the place for the throne speech took time to say hello. In fact, I believe I got more hellos per

square metre at Queen's Park than I would get walking down Eglinton Avenue.

"The second visit to Queen's Park was on Friday afternoon for a reception in the Lieutenant Governor's suite for one of our community's elder statesmen, Harry Gairey. Again, as I walked through those corridors of power, I was pleasantly surprised by the warmth of the greetings from the employees. I felt good. I felt very good, and I wondered at how comfortable I was."

This government has outlined a progressive and forward-looking agenda that responds to the economic needs and to the very human values of the people of this province. Unlike speeches from the throne of the past, this speech from the throne does not take a grab-bag, fragmented approach. Rather, it outlines a bold, broad-stroke design for Ontario. Our plan is comprehensive, our resolve intact.

On motion by Mr. Harris, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, April 30, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, April 30, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

DRIVERS' LICENCES

Mr. Gregory: It has been brought to my attention recently that it is taking a great deal of time to have standard drivers' licences updated to classes A and B. The class A licences are those required by the professional truck drivers in Ontario, while the class B licences are those required by all bus drivers.

We are currently near the beginning of May, and I am advised by numerous people, including those waiting to upgrade their licences as well as owners of truck and bus fleets, that appointments are now being made for early to mid-September. That is almost five months, and it is a totally unreasonable period of time for one to wait to have his or her licence upgraded to class A or class B.

Many of those applying for class B licences are women who wish to drive school buses on either a part-time or full-time basis. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications, by procrastinating on this problem, is preventing these people from earning an income. Many women, particularly in rural Ontario, drive school buses, thus not only providing a service but also contributing to the family cash flow.

My colleagues and I urge that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications provide additional staff in all areas, particularly throughout rural Ontario, to ensure that the waiting time to upgrade one's licence to class A or class B does not exceed 30 days. This is a most serious problem and it demands an immediate increase in staff at the driver examination level of MTC.

ONTARIO HUMANE SOCIETY

Mr. Warner: I do not know how anyone who would call his pets Strawberry Shortcake and Blueberry Muffin could refuse the necessary funds to the Ontario Humane Society so that it, in turn, can protect the animals in our province. I urge the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to reconsider and to provide the necessary funds. His pets, Strawberry Shortcake and Blueberry Muffin, I

am sure, will appreciate the kind attention that will be afforded to the other pets.

BUS ACCIDENT

Mr. Offer: It is a pleasure to rise and participate in this new proceeding of the House. I view this as an opportunity not only to bring forward matters of concern but also to acknowledge and commend publicly the work of individuals, organizations and associations.

As we know, about three weeks ago a bus travelling from Buffalo, New York, to the Metro Toronto Zoo was involved in a traffic accident on the Queen Elizabeth Way as it travelled through the city of Mississauga. This accident left many persons injured, some less so than others. However, two people badly injured had been impaled by a steel pole.

I would like to commend publicly the work done by the medics and ambulance services of Mississauga and all the hospital staff involved in meeting the immediate demands of this accident. They acted efficiently, promptly, and maybe most important, sensitively to the nature of the injuries sustained.

In the final result, in no small measure because of the outstanding effort of all involved, no lives were lost.

WINE PRICING

Mr. Partington: I am pleased with the recent announcement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) that the government has entered into an agreement to provide a new pricing structure for wines sold in Ontario, an agreement based on the proposals contained in the Niagara accord. You will recall that last October I introduced a private member's resolution urging the government to accept the proposals contained in the Niagara accord. I am pleased it has finally done so.

The new pricing structure will help the Ontario wine industry and the grape growers recapture their lost market share. Generally, lower wine prices should please the consumers. More important, the new pricing structure provides an opportunity for the wine industry to do what is necessary—and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) should listen carefully—to attain

the competitiveness, stability, recognition and prosperity it so justly deserves.

The grape growers and the wine industry will seize the opportunity, Ontario and its consumers will be the beneficiaries, and the minister can now taste good Ontario product with a clear mind.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Gigantes: I would like to put in my two cents' worth on the subject of the 37 cents that is missing from the dollar that women earn in this province. In spite of fine words from the Liberals, all we have seen so far is a bill to effect equal pay for 29,000 of the almost two million women in Ontario's paid labour force. At best, that is a one and a half per cent solution for the problem of unequal pay.

I would like to make a comparison. Right now, this government is equivocating on the issue of extra billing. The doctors are threatening to withdraw their services if they are not allowed to charge more than the negotiated fee schedule. Compare that with the situation of women. Women want to be put on the same fee schedule as men: not more, just the same; equal pay for work of equal value.

What would the government do if women decided to withdraw their services? What if every woman in Ontario on a given day decided she felt sick about unequal pay and called in and explained she felt so sick about pay inequity that she would not be coming to work? This province would grind to a halt. This government should take note that the government of Iceland had to move very quickly to provide equal pay protection after just such an action by the women of Iceland. We are facing an ice jam in Ontario, and we are not prepared to wait patiently any longer. We are feeling ill about pay inequities.

GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER

Ms. Hart: I rise for the first time to bring to the attention of this House a very important occasion in York East and across Ontario. On Sunday, May 4, the highest holiday of all, Easter, is celebrated in the Greek Orthodox community.

As you know, Easter symbolizes the rebirth and rejuvenation of the earth each year. It is a time of rejoicing, celebrated in the Greek Orthodox community by the ceremonial roasting of a lamb. I look forward to sharing in this celebration. First, however, I want to take this opportunity to wish all Ontarians of Greek descent, "Kalo Pascha," which I am informed by

my Greek friends in York East means "a very happy Easter."

2:10 p.m.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Mr. Pollock: As most of the members are aware, farming has one of the highest fatality rates, second only to mining in this province. In 1985, there were 27 accidental farm deaths in Ontario, nine of which directly resulted from tractor rollovers.

In north Hastings this past weekend, an Oshawa man became another statistic when the tractor he was driving flipped over and pinned him underneath. This tragic incident emphasizes once again the need for improvements to existing and new farm equipment. The addition of a cab or rollover bar for farm vehicles, particularly tractors, would no doubt have saved some of these individuals' lives.

I wish to take this opportunity to urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to introduce legislation to allow for reimbursement to farmers who install rollover bars or protective cabs on their farm machinery.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Philip: Yesterday, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), in responding to my concern about the demolition of a building in Etobicoke, promised yet more studies. During his studies, he should have discovered two research papers and a private member's bill that would have solved the problem for him. The research papers were done in 1983 and 1984 by the Liberal research office. The bill, Bill 128, was introduced in 1984 by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson).

The vacancy rate of rental apartments in the city of Etobicoke is less than one in 1,000. While in opposition, the Liberals did research that the minister could have implemented 10 months ago. They are very slow to implement in government what they preached in opposition. It is time for the minister to act before those tenants are evicted this Saturday in Etobicoke, and I ask him to do so immediately.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

SOVIET REACTOR

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The events at the nuclear power plant in the Ukraine have claimed the attention of the world and are of grave concern to us. In making this statement today, I wish to

express this Legislature's concern for the welfare of those living in the vicinity of the plant.

At this time, it is not clear what the cause and extent may be of the accident at the Chernobyl power plant. However, it is evident that an accident of major proportions has taken place. In all likelihood, it will be many months before a clear picture of the incident is available and an assessment can be made of how we may all learn from the event. However, there are some points that can be made now.

First, it should be clear that the accident does not pose an immediate threat to the safety of the people in Ontario, nor is it likely that there will be any significant implications for the health of Canadians, even in the long term. Members will be aware that the federal Minister of the Environment has ordered increased testing of atmospheric radioactivity across Canada as a means of assessing any possible effects on Canadians.

Second, despite the lack of detailed information about the Soviet reactor itself, it is nevertheless possible to state that the Soviet design differs in fundamental ways from the Candu reactor we operate in this province. It is important that the people of Ontario recognize that the fire that appears to be burning in the graphite core of the Soviet reactor and, in retrospect, may be a major contributor to the magnitude of the event is not possible in a Candu reactor. The other major difference is that the Russian design does not provide for containment of radioactivity in the event of an accident, as does our Candu reactor.

A detailed comparison between the two reactor systems may show other areas of significant difference. The chairman of Ontario Hydro has forwarded to me a letter which I am tabling in the House. The chairman provides more detailed comments on the differences and advises that he has contacted the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa to extend an offer of technical assistance to the Soviets should such assistance be requested.

Let us not lose sight of the long experience that we have in this country and that Ontario Hydro in particular has in the operation of nuclear power reactors at the Pickering and Bruce nuclear stations. During the course of the past 20 years, Ontario Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. have worked hard to make the Candu system reliable and safe. Ontario Hydro has achieved an excellent record of protecting its workers from radiation, and I believe this expertise may be of assistance to the Soviet authorities at this time.

In the longer term, events such as those occurring at Chernobyl and as happened at Three Mile Island cause a reassessment of safety procedures and safety systems and designs. I wish to assure the House that those ministries and agencies in this province with responsibilities for nuclear safety will be working closely together for the next few months with the international nuclear community to learn and apply whatever lessons there may be from this most unfortunate accident at Chernobyl.

I will report further to the Legislature on this matter as more information becomes available.

Mr. Rae: I want to take the opportunity to say to the Minister of Energy that we shall be addressing some of these issues in question period. We do not find the comments or remarks he has made satisfactory in terms of the extent of the problem. In particular, they are unsatisfactory in respect of the reality that this government has to make a decision as to whether Ontario will become 70 per cent nuclear dependent, or whether we in this province will find a more balanced mix of electrical generation.

That decision has been on top of the cabinet's desk for nearly a year. It is there that a decision needs to be made; it can be made and it must be made. In our view, a decision must be made in favour of a more balanced approach to electrical generation, not this overdependence on one source.

All of us who listened to the news last night heard the representations from Ontario Hydro. We have the extensive reports that have been done with respect to the systems that are in place at Pickering, Bruce, Rolphoton and elsewhere. We know the facts that have been put forward by Ontario Hydro.

The issue that currently is squarely in the government's court is not simply on the question of safety, although we shall be coming to that, but what the future mix of electrical generation will be in this province. That is a decision which the minister did not refer to today. He is going to have to face up to it. We are profoundly disappointed in the statement he made today. He chose not to deal with that issue.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The Wheel-Trans Labour Dispute Settlement Act, 1986, which received royal assent last Friday, provides for the appointment of a single arbitrator to decide upon the matters in dispute between All-Way Transportation Corp. and Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

I am pleased to advise the House today that Howard Brown of Burlington, Ontario has agreed to serve as arbitrator and his appointment has been made today.

A former vice-chairman of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, Mr. Brown is an experienced and highly respected adjudicator who has done private arbitration on a full-time basis since 1969. His experience includes interest and rights adjudication. He has also acted as both mediator and chairman of boards of conciliation appointed by the Minister of Labour.

I am pleased that Mr. Brown was prepared to accept this important assignment.

Mr. Harris: Very briefly, I want to congratulate the Minister of Labour on appointing an arbitrator as quickly as he has been able to in the Wheel-Trans labour dispute. We think it is important that business commence right away. I hope he also instructed the arbitrator to ignore the very ill-founded comments made by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) who said he does not agree with wage parity as a method of resolving disputes.

PROCESSING PLANT

Hon. Mr. Riddell: In view of the telephone calls my office has been receiving this morning and the rather confusing articles appearing in today's newspapers, I am obligated to take this opportunity to clear up confusion created by the inaccurate and irresponsible statement made in the House yesterday by the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) about the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative. This has led to false newspaper reports, including one in the London Free Press which quotes me as making the announcement. This, in turn, has raised false expectations and unnecessary concerns.

The fact is that the province is still awaiting confirmation in writing from the federal government on the amount and type of financial assistance for the co-operative. Senior members of my ministry are meeting with staff of the Honourable John Wise in Ottawa today to find out precisely what capital commitment the federal government is prepared to make and when it will be forthcoming. As of this moment, we do not have written confirmation from Ottawa.

We are working closely with the tomato co-op. I stress that no one on my staff has informed the co-op that funding will flow, as was stated yesterday by the member for Durham-York. We also want to see whether Ottawa is prepared to offer protection to the tomato paste industry

against cheap offshore imports so the co-op has a chance to be competitive.

2:20 p.m.

While the province is anxious to be of assistance, we feel these matters must be clarified. Details are still being worked out. We are still waiting for confirmation that the co-op has lined up bank loans. We also want to examine any terms and conditions of these loans.

Unlike the member for Durham-York, I will not make irresponsible statements in or out of this House. The member does no service to the tomato co-op by playing political games and creating—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the minister continue?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The member does no service to the Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative by playing political games and creating undue expectations before negotiations are completed. This behaviour is reminiscent of the member's actions during the short time he spent as Minister of Agriculture and Food when he made promises without the dollars to back them up.

Furthermore, I am forwarding this matter to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to see whether such mischief is an appropriate use of members' statements.

Mr. Stevenson: I would like to respond to the statement just made by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. When it comes to irresponsible statements, there is one member of the House from whom virtually all the rest of us can take lessons.

The Southern Ontario Tomato Co-operative met with the ministry staff in July 1985 and with the minister on August 23, 1985, when it presented him with approximately a 100-page document, informing him of its intentions and how that organization would be established.

I was contacted by sources both in Ottawa and at the tomato co-op to see whether I could get some sort of action out of the provincial minister. My sources in Ottawa inform me that there was a public commitment made to the tomato co-op. I have been verbally informed that there was a letter of intent written with a commitment of \$1.5 million from the federal government, conditional on a \$1-million funding from the province. I believe the letter was signed in the third week of February.

There is no question that the tomato co-op got a phone call on Monday morning. Since we had

worked on the question last week, it called on Monday morning to tell me that funding would flow. It did not want me to be embarrassed in the House when the minister stood up and admitted the funding could flow as a result of my question. It was obvious that the minister knew nothing of what had been going on behind the scenes and was not aware that the phone call had been made. It took me a few hours to figure out what the heck was going on, from what I knew about the issue and the response to his question.

It is also my information that staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food were in Ottawa yesterday—not just today—working out the particulars of this program. There is great pressure right now. The tomato co-op cannot establish the final structure of the project and will not know exactly how to set up its corporate structure until it gets the financial backing. It has pretty good bank commitments, but until the province decides what it is going to do, it does not know exactly how it will be set up. It has contracts to let for this production year.

From the co-op and from Ottawa, it is very clear that the minister has been dragging his feet for months. To the best of my knowledge from all the information I have been able to obtain on the issue since last Thursday, the statement I made in the House yesterday is correct. I must say the phone caller did not commit himself to \$1 million; he just said that funding would be flowing.

Mr. Ramsay: I want to address the announcement made by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I feel a little pasty having this responsibility today, but it really is a juicy topic and I think I can squeeze a bit out of it.

To cut through all the shenanigans that have happened here between the two members of the House, the important thing is if we had an agricultural food policy, this basic tenet of import replacement would be a main part of that policy. It is something our party encourages. We have \$25 million worth of paste coming into this country every year and it is something in which we could be self-sufficient and we should be striving towards that. Not only would it encourage more growth in the tomato industry as far as farmers are concerned, but also there are a lot of good processing jobs that add value to this product. This is what we should be striving towards. I encourage the minister to help this co-op and do it as quickly as possible.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On behalf of the government, I am pleased, in fact delighted, to

announce the appointment of Donald C. MacDonald as chairman of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses for a period of three years, commencing May 1, 1986.

Mr. MacDonald has had a distinguished career in the Legislature and as leader of his party. We all know he will serve the province well in this new position, to which he brings a sense of fairness and a commitment to open participation in the political process. In so doing, he will keep a close eye on his former colleagues.

Mr. MacDonald will be located in the commission offices at 151 Bloor Street West. I know he and his staff—the senior staff are in the gallery this afternoon—will continue to welcome members of the Legislature there.

Mr. Harris: I want to comment very briefly on the appointment of Donald C. MacDonald as chairman of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses. Our party welcomes the appointment. We think he is very deserving and will do a good job. We agree with the comment that he will bring a sense of fairness and commitment to open participation in the political process.

I say with a little bit of regret that I believe the current government has cast a cloud over the appointment. Because I hold Mr. MacDonald in such high esteem, I regret the government has cast such a cloud by bringing forth an obvious patronage appointment in this manner before the Legislature to live up to the accord in such a blatant manner.

This government announced it would set up a committee to review these appointments. We welcome that. We think it is needed and we are in support of that. Now it is rushing through the patronage appointments as fast as it can so it will not have to deal with the committee in an open and fair way.

We wish Mr. MacDonald well. We are with him. I regret the way the government is carrying on business.

Mr. Rae: First, on behalf of our party, I want to say Mr. MacDonald's career has taken on yet another fascinating aspect. He is somebody who has contributed to the public life of this province for more than 30 years, somebody who is known to all members of all parties and somebody whose contribution to the public life of this province has been without parallel. It is an appointment that I know from personal knowledge was discussed at length among all three parties and had the consent of all three parties. In that spirit, I want to congratulate Mr. MacDonald.

I regard the comments by the member for Nipissing as something that could only stem from an ignorance of the process of what went on with respect to this appointment. He could not have said what he said if he had understood the nature of the process. For him to have made the comments he made will be seen as singularly inappropriate. The appointment was one that was discussed among all three parties and one that was agreed to by all three parties, as is appropriate. If I may say so, it was a process of consultation that in my experience is far more extensive than anything I have been involved in as leader under the previous Tory administration. The process of consultation with respect to this appointment is unlike that which I have personally seen with respect to two other appointments with which I was associated: that of the Ombudsman, Mr. Hill, and that of the current chairman of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses, Mr. Aiken, a former Tory MP for the riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka.

It is important to put those facts on the record. I wanted to state that very clearly and categorically.

2:30 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PREMIER'S LETTER

Mr. O'Connor: I have a question of the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. The minister recently sent a letter, signed by the Premier (Mr. Peterson), to all of the provincial court judges along with their latest pay packet. The letter addresses the provincial court judges as civil servants, and it reminds them of their duty to "directly implement government programs."

Do the minister and this government not yet understand that our judges are not civil servants; that not only are they independent of the executive branch but they also must be seen to be independent of the executive branch?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: A letter was sent out by the Premier to all those receiving cheques from the Ministry of Government Services payroll system. The letter was enclosed to everyone receiving those cheques. As provincial court judges receive their cheques through that process, they received a letter along with everyone else.

Mr. O'Connor: If I might quote further from the letter, it says: "Your accomplishments should be recognized and rewarded. To do this we must identify the best ways to encourage those who

consistently meet their objectives and provide exceptional service to the people of Ontario. Of course, poor performance must also be directly addressed."

What programs and what methods of assessment does this government have in mind for judging the judges on their work? Is it suggesting that perhaps there should be a quota system for guilty findings by these judges?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: Yes, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. members: Yes?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: The answer to the question is that the letter was sent out, as I stated, to everyone receiving cheques from the government payroll system. The judges received theirs. It was a recognition by this government of the very professional and good service we have received from the very professional and good civil servants.

However, as members know, whenever mass mailings are undertaken and letters are distributed in that manner, some inadvertently are sent to the judges. I will ensure that does not occur in the future.

Mr. O'Connor: The real question is, does the minister feel this kind of propaganda to civil servants, be they judges or otherwise, at the taxpayers' expense is appropriate in these circumstances?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: I think it is very appropriate for the government to communicate with people serving the government as employees. Let me respond to the member in this way: I receive much mail on a personal basis, even some from the Tory party soliciting funds. If they were to check their lists, they might find errors in their mailings in sending that material to a good Liberal member such as myself. These things happen occasionally. I will ensure they do not happen in the future.

ELEVATOR ACCIDENTS

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. According to the press today, the minister has announced another study, this time on joyriding on elevators. Problems with elevators have been rampant for at least half a year and have included two teen-age deaths.

Interjections.

Mr. Runciman: I will send over a chronology to remind the members on that side of the House.

Mr. Mancini: You should be embarrassed.

Mr. Runciman: The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) should be embarrassed. He has a

lot of things to be embarrassed about. Will the minister tell this House why it has taken him so long to react to this urgent situation?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member raises a serious problem that we are very concerned about and are very active in trying to resolve. He should know it is not something flippant; it is a very serious problem. The more one talks about it, the more one adds to the problem. We have talked to professionals. Elevators are not meant to be ridden from on top of the cabs. Notwithstanding that, unfortunately, some youngsters are doing it. We are trying to resolve the problem. I have groups looking at it. I am very concerned about it and we are addressing the problem.

Mr. Runciman: It is astounding. He refers to talking about it. Why is the minister's face in the paper this morning talking about it? The minister was faster than a speeding bullet in getting his name on all the elevators across this province. We all know that. That says something about his priorities.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I again say to the members they are wasting their own time.

Mr. Runciman: Will the minister agree—I guess he will not, but I am going to ask him anyway—that rather than waiting for the results of this study he has initiated, he should embark immediately on a hard-hitting public awareness campaign aimed at teenagers and telling them there is no joy in joyriding?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would like to point out to the member that he had the honour of being the shortest-lived Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It was for a period of less than a month, and his name appears on several elevators around the province.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind all members that we might hear the questions faster and get to the replies faster without too much editorial comment.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: It is a very serious problem. Without trying to be flippant, it requires a vast solution and not a half-vast solution.

Mr. Runciman: The ministry has been approached several times, starting in early March, by the makers of an anti-tampering device for elevators. Has the minister met with these people and if not, why not?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The officials of the technical standards branch of my ministry have been meeting on this problem constantly. We are trying to come up with a solution that works. It is a very difficult solution because one has to understand that any solution that might solve that problem might create more problems than it solved. People go into those elevators and have to get out in emergencies. People have to service them. It is a very difficult problem to resolve.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Energy in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson). The minister was one of the members of this Legislature who in 1980 signed a report entitled *The Safety of Ontario's Nuclear Reactors*. Recommendation X of that report states: "The AECB should commission a study to analyse the likelihood and consequences of a catastrophic accident in a Candu reactor. The study should be directed by recognized experts outside the AECB, AECL and Ontario Hydro. It should be funded by a special grant from the federal government. If this study is not commissioned by July 31, 1980, the province of Ontario should ensure that it is undertaken."

As a result of conversations with the Atomic Energy Control Board, it is our understanding that this specific study requested by the Legislature of Ontario has not been undertaken. Other studies have; a specific study of this nature has not. Is it the view of the Minister of Energy that such a study would be worth while, and if so, will he see that it is undertaken by the government of this province?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, I was on that committee during most of its tenure. Those recommendations were put forward to the previous government. I am not suggesting they did not do anything about it, but it appears obvious that it did not happen. In view of the circumstance that has everyone in the world kind of standing still, I am willing to take into account any suggestion from all sides of this House as to what we should be doing in Ontario, the province that has the largest involvement of Candu reactors in Canada.

In speaking to the leader of the third party and in reflecting on that kind of commitment made that far back, that will be taken into account as I examine all the ramifications of this tragedy in the next few days. I do not think the honourable member expects me to give him an immediate yes-or-no answer, but I hope I can convince him those things that need to be done will be done.

Mr. Rae: It is difficult to ask the Minister of Energy; perhaps if he cannot answer, he can redirect it to the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes). I was going to address all these questions to the Premier, but in view of his absence, I cannot. I will address the question to the minister, and if he feels he cannot answer, he can redirect.

It is our understanding, and we stand to be corrected if we are not right, that Ontario has a draft nuclear emergency plan for Pickering, of which I have a copy dated April 1985, but there is no such plan for the Bruce area, that the plan for Pickering is still only in the draft stage and does not provide any direct procedures for alerting the public, and that in neither the Bruce nor the Pickering area are there plans in place today with respect to the alerting of the public.

Is the minister aware of the progress being made in the development of such plans, and for the sake of those citizens who have been asking all of us in public life, can he tell us precisely what measures are in place in Ontario and what is being done with respect to those living in the vicinity of those plants?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think I very properly answered the first part of the question, but I will redirect to the Solicitor General, who has that responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: There was an old plan in 1979. It had many shortcomings. It was revised in late 1985. That has gone through the cabinet committee on emergency planning. It has been before cabinet and has been accepted in principle by cabinet, and it will be promulgated through an order in council in the very near future. It takes into account a general emergency plan for all of Ontario, but it does have in it an opportunity and means whereby the public can be well informed of any disaster.

By way of a supplementary answer, before I get it—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is the answer. There has not been a final supplementary placed.

Mr. Rae: Since I often do not know what I am going to ask, it is refreshing to have a minister who seems to know that before I do. My final supplementary is to the Minister of Energy, if that is possible.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not possible.

Mr. Rae: I will go back to the Solicitor General in that case. Can the minister tell us specifically whether there are plans, both with respect to Pickering and with respect to Bruce, and precisely what measures are in place for alerting the public?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: We had a plan with regard to a potential disaster at Pickering last year, a very active plan in which many thousands of people took part. That plan is well in hand.

In September 1986 we have another plan for the Bruce nuclear generating station which will test the capacity of the province to respond to an emergency. In general, the plan does look out well for the safety of all citizens of Ontario.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: In view of the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who apparently has been playing the lead role in this, I would like to ask the Minister of Health whether he is in a position to answer these questions with respect to the extra billing question.

I am receiving letters daily from people who are being extra billed; I am sure the minister is as well. I have one here from someone who is paying on behalf of his father, a resident of a nursing home in Sudbury, a request for payment of a bill from a doctor. I would like to ask the minister whether he would consider sitting down with the Ontario Medical Association and putting to the OMA the simple proposition that there should be, as of today, a moratorium on extra billing so patients in this province should not suffer as a result of the inability of the government of Ontario to make up its own mind with respect to bringing in legislation on extra billing.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am in a position to answer that question and to tell this Legislature that we have made up our minds on the issue. Extra billing will be ended. That is the position of this government, it has been, it will be and we will carry it through.

With respect to the question at hand, any suggestions that any member has regarding moving ahead in discussions and negotiations with the OMA will be placed in front of our negotiating group. I will ask them if they will effect this moratorium and look forward to their reply.

I am also in a position to tell the members that at this stage we hope to receive a new set of written proposals from the OMA when we are able to sit down again in our next meeting. I am looking forward to those discussions continuing.

Mr. Rae: I am sure the minister will recognize that since the election of May 2, when a majority of this Legislature was elected on the principle that extra billing should not take place, patients in Ontario have been billed somewhere in excess of \$40 million. As far as we know, they are still

being billed at a rate of roughly \$1 million per week.

Can the minister tell precisely what steps the government intends to take to ensure that delay no longer will be the friend of extra billing, but extra billing can come to an end because that is the commitment of this Legislature? We think it is improper and something that should not be happening in the province.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The friend of this Legislature and the friend of the public in Ontario is to continue to discuss and negotiate this matter with the profession, to resolve this question in the best method possible and to come to grips with dealing with the situation here in Ontario. We will not delay any longer if we find there is no progress being made. I can tell this Legislature that, in fact, we have made progress. When talks are going on and when new proposals are being expected, we can gladly say the public is being well served by working towards an amicable solution to this problem.

Mr. Rae: The bromide statement the minister has just delivered may make him feel better, but it does not contribute at all to the state of health of this province with respect to the question of extra billing.

How can he tell patients who at this very moment are receiving extra bills for \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50, \$100, \$150, \$200 or \$300 that this need not happen and will not happen? What assurance can he give those patients? Why has it taken his government 10 months to end the delay, the frustration and the poor morale that are affecting the health care system of this province as a result of its dithering on this issue? Does he not realize this is what is happening because of the delay?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have to disagree with my friend. In fact, there is no dithering. Action has been taken. We have moved to introduce the bill. At one point we had received indications that there would never be discussions between the government and the OMA. In fact, that has been overcome. We have had those discussions. We are having those discussions. We are putting together written proposals. We are hoping to get new proposals from that group very shortly, and we will continue to deal with this problem in a very sensitive manner.

Those patients who feel there are problems ought to go directly to their physician. They can go to their physician, as they have been told. They can come to me, and I will do my best as well to intercede for those people.

I can tell the honourable gentlemen that, from my standpoint, we are moving on this issue in the most sensitive and most sensible manner possible for the people and the public of Ontario.

INSECTICIDES

Mr. Harris: Will the Minister of the Environment share with the House any evidence the Ministry of the Environment has on the effectiveness and environmental impacts of chemical versus biological insecticides?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In terms of insecticides, is the honourable member talking about forestry?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Of course, opinion is divided on this. There are those who represent ridings in northwestern Ontario who hold a certain point of view on these and feel they can be more effective in certain instances than the bacillus thuringiensis. Those people made known their point of view, as did the people who are in favour of Bt, at the open houses that were conducted by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

As the member is aware, the government has made a decision that it will use Bt, as the Minister of Natural Resources has announced, to combat the problems that are confronted by those who are specifically interested in forestry products that have been assaulted by various pests.

We will continue to have those in the industry who indicate they would prefer specific chemicals to be used and we will have those who would prefer to see Bt used, most of whom are not within the industry itself. I know that when the member consults with his caucus colleagues, those from northwestern Ontario may have certain views and those from other areas of the province may have other views.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems like a very comprehensive answer.

Mr. Harris: It was very comprehensive, but I was interested in what the ministry thought. I know what everybody else thinks, and I realize that opinion is divided.

I am surprised, now that chemical spraying has been identified as one of the major causes of toxic rain, or at least a very significant cause, that this ministry does not have a viewpoint on this and is relying on what some think and what some others think.

I wonder whether his ministry—not others—agrees with Errol Caldwell, program director for chemical control agents of the Forest Pest Management Institute. He says, "We have done

quite a bit of work with Bt at the institute. We found Bt as effective as chemical products." Does the minister agree with Errol Caldwell's statement?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member has now clarified his question so that I understand what he was getting at. The first question appeared to be designed to elicit an answer he may have been looking for. I wanted to explain to him the two sides of that issue.

However, since the member has asked for a viewpoint on the specific product Bt, I believe Bt is a very effective product to use. We have seen evidence of that in the past. Yes, it does require the insect actually to consume the Bt before it dies. As the member knows, it has been effective, particularly in the proper weather conditions. I feel Bt is a very effective agent, and our government is using it this year.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Minister of Labour, my friend Russell Ramsay-Wrye, arising out of a memo dated May 6, 1985, by Walter Melinyshyn, and containing this statement: "An existing 'G' file of 18 months or more may, for the purpose of expedition, be placed directly to the 'on-call cycle 99' without a file review by completing a code 11 report for submission to the manager." I do not know what that means.

Can I ask the minister what this means? Does this mean that once a firm is placed under a code 99, it will never again be subject to regular inspections, that code 99 files will react only to injuries or work-place refusals and that plants will not be visited to determine new procedures and to check on their accident and health and safety programs? Indeed, is this not a policy aimed at crisis management?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I do not know what code 99 means either; I will be candid in saying that to my friend. The honourable member knows that inspections of various firms, depending on their accident frequency and the danger of the work in which they are involved, can be on anywhere from a three-month cycle to a 36-month cycle. To be quite candid with the Legislature, with 200,000 firms in Ontario, it is obvious that not every firm gets a visit even within that 36-month period.

I can only say to my friend and to all the other members of the Legislature that in the last little while this government has attempted and will continue to attempt to put more resources into the occupational health and safety division, both in

the inspectorate for the preliminary inspections done by the industrial, mining and construction health and safety branches and in the occupational health area, an area in which our knowledge has exploded and in which we need to have not only new experts but also additional training.

Those matters are no longer under active review. Additional hiring is taking place and additional training is being put into place. I hope we can continue to visit not only the most dangerous work places of Ontario but also all work places just as often as we can. It is a very difficult job, given the 2,000 work places.

Mr. Martel: Since the minister has indicated that some companies will not be inspected as frequently, I would like to quote from another encyclical just put out by the ministry.

Mr. Speaker: I hope it is a very brief quote.

Mr. Martel: It is a very brief quote: "For the purpose of this policy, inspections are defined as routine inspections to audit the internal responsibility system. Activities of division staff not considered routine inspection include a whole series of exclusions." What is happening—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Martel: I am coming to the question.

Mr. Speaker: I hope so.

3 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I know you are trying to be helpful. I can tell that you are trying to be helpful.

Does this new policy—the second one, with the ministry's code 99 policy, which is eliminating the cyclical inspections and all these listed in the latest encyclical—mean that no inspections will occur without prior notice? What we now have is intervention when companies advise the ministry what is going on.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I know my friend is on the kick of prior notification, his suggestion being that this is what is happening. We have put out a policy on prior notification that is as tight as possible in ensuring that when the inspections take place, and thousands take place every year, there will be no prior notification. I am sure my friend and the members of the House in general understand that there may have to be prior notification in the tightest of circumstances; for example, when testing is about to occur. We want to be able to duplicate conditions in the plant. We may disagree—

Mr. Speaker: Order. With respect, I have been timing this and it is taking a little too long.

HOUSING STOCK

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Housing. Some 40 per cent of new homes in Ontario are not completed on time. What steps does the minister plan to take to assist new home buyers in this regard?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is the housing boom.

Hon. Mr. Curling: The question the member raises is of concern to us, of course. As my colleague just commented, this is part of the housing boom that is happening. There is concern about getting enough labourers, bricklayers and what have you, to complete the housing starts. The matter has been discussed with my colleague the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) and we are looking into it.

Mr. Runciman: We hear a lot of, "We are looking into it." In many municipalities—Mississauga, Brampton and Ottawa, to name a few—this situation has reached crisis proportions. The minister has had the better part of a year to do something about it and he has done nothing. I will use two future Oakville residents as examples. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Noonan, with one son, have been waiting 14 months for their new home. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rizzuto, with two children, have been waiting 10 months. Will the minister assure the House he will try to get an appointment with his leader or with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) to find out how to handle this important issue?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The matter is not in the hands of the Attorney General or the leader. As I expressed to the member, we are looking into the matter. It is a very complex matter. The builders have indicated to me the shortage of bricks and adequate labour. It is a compounded problem, and we are looking into the matter.

INTERVENER FUNDING

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Attorney General. The speech from the throne promised there would be assistance for groups and individuals seeking to intervene before administrative tribunals. When can we expect to see such legislation introduced and when can we assure groups that are participating in these expensive hearings that they are no longer going to have to have bake sales and membership drives to finance their participation?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the member for the question. Some ad hoc funding has been provided from time to time. If there are any bake sales taking place, I would be glad to hear about

them so that we can see funding is provided on that basis. The speech did contain that reference. We are working on a policy. When it has been examined by cabinet, I will be delighted to let the honourable member know.

Mrs. Grier: There is a very clear policy and some criteria for intervener funding, with which I am sure the Attorney General is familiar. These are the criteria that were followed by the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry in 1977.

Could the Attorney General tell the House whether, as counsel for that inquiry, he had any difficulty with the principles and the policy on intervener funding and whether he is drafting legislation based on those very important principles?

Hon. Mr. Scott: While I agree that the criteria the commission followed were in every respect excellent, they were more appropriate perhaps for northern Canada than they are for the south. As the member will remember well, they required public interest groups which were different in origin to coalesce for the purpose of hearings, a process that might not be acceptable in Ontario. However, we are looking at those and at other criteria, and a policy will be announced in due course.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. For the purposes of determining costs no longer borne, how will a tenant determine the financing costs of the landlord? Which of those costs were used in determining the rent increase?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I remind the honourable member that the report from the tenants and landlords was submitted to me recently. That issue was addressed. I will comment on that as soon as we get a chance to assess the proposal they put forth.

Mr. Gordon: This report was described by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) as historic, one that would be incorporated into Bill 78. The minister has made laudatory remarks about it. Perhaps he would share with this House what mechanisms will be put in place to facilitate a tenant's appeal of the rental review advisory board.

Hon. Mr. Curling: To begin with, the historic part about it is that we were able to get the landlords and tenants to sit down and address the issue. The member does not recognize that as historic, but we do. There are tenants and landlords who have been in the building industry for years who have never met a Minister of

Housing, and the Conservatives had many in the past. The Premier made his comments, I presume, from his reading.

Mr. Gordon: Did the minister not read it?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The Premier has a right to make his comments.

We are sitting down and assessing all the proposals before us. Then we will make our presentation and my friend will have his time to make his comments in committee too.

APARTMENT CONVERSIONS

Ms. Gigantes: My question is also to the Minister of Housing. I am not sure whether I should address the question to the Minister of Housing or to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre), but I will start with the Minister of Housing who has been standing in this House and telling us for the last week or so to hold our breath because action is coming on the urgent problem of the haemorrhaging of our precious affordable rental housing.

Will the Minister of Housing tell us the government's policy to prevent conversions by severance and conversions to apartment hotels? What will that policy be?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I presume I will take that question.

As with many neglected issues, this government would like to resolve this issue immediately. I am also very mindful of the fact that there are people, such as tenants and prospective buyers, who are concerned and who are wondering where they stand on this issue. Having said all that—

An. hon. member: The minister has not said anything yet.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I did that deliberately so my colleagues over there would understand where we are coming from. I will be making an announcement very shortly to address all the issues the member raised.

Mr. Ashe: The New Democratic Party should have put the minister in the accord.

Mr. McClellan: We tried to write him out of the accord.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will wait until the members are finished talking among themselves.
3:10 p.m.

Ms. Gigantes: I know that the minister will have talked to his colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs, who comes from the Ottawa area. We know now from the press the deal that has been made is that we are going to stop condominium conversions threatening high-rises

in Toronto, and that is great. I am sure the Minister of Municipal Affairs will speak to the same issue with a great deal of urgency because of the thousands of units we have lost from affordable rental housing. I do not want to see those tenants losing more units when we have to pay good money to provide them with alternative housing.

Hon. Mr. Curling: If the question is there, I would not like to see them losing, either.

DEBRIS FROM ACCIDENT

Mr. Barlow: My question today is for the Solicitor General. There has been a large pile of debris sitting on both sides of Highway 401 in the westbound lane at kilometre marker 305, which I understand to be the contents of an American semi-trailer from Ohio that was involved in a multi-vehicle accident back on February 7.

Would the Solicitor General be kind enough to tell us why, nearly three full months after that accident, this debris, which I am told is aluminum chloride, is still sitting along Highway 401 and the Ontario Provincial Police to this date has not been successful in persuading the American insurance broker or agent to have that pile cleaned up?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Not to be flippant, but I was almost going to ask the member to tell me why he thought it was the responsibility of the Solicitor General to clean up something along the side of Highway 401. It is a matter that might be more appropriately directed to either the Ministry of Transportation and Communications or the Ministry of the Environment.

I thought perhaps it might have been the remnants of the parkway that was demolished there just a short while ago, but I know that was well collected by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

I have no indication of why they have not succeeded. Again, while I consider it to be outside the realm of my ministry, I will attempt to get an answer for the member.

Mr. Barlow: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: The minister said it was outside the realm of his ministry. I understood the question to be, why has the OPP not been successful. Under those circumstances I will allow you to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Barlow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that you were listening to my question.

Nearly three months have gone past. It is the OPP that is involved. There is mismanagement among the OPP—the Ministry of the Solicitor

General, that is—the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. None of those ministries has taken responsibility to have this mess cleaned up. I want to know why this industrial byproduct has been allowed to remain alongside the road for three full months.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I will be happy to take it under advisement, find an answer from whichever ministry bears the responsibility and provide it as soon as possible.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Labour about Algoma Steel's new announcement this week that it will be shutting down its seamless tube mill in May, resulting in the loss of an additional 350 jobs for an indefinite period on top of the 1,500 jobs we discussed at length on Monday. In this case, workers with up to 29 years' seniority, dating back to the startup of the mill in 1957, are being laid off.

Has he investigated the actions being taken by Algoma Steel? What, specifically, is his ministry doing to protect the workers at Algoma? Why has he not yet contacted union officials in regard to this serious matter?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to advise the honourable member that this minister, officials in my ministry and all of the cabinet members of the government take these problems at Algoma, and indeed the whole variety of problems in the north, with a great deal of seriousness and concern. We are looking for answers, not only in the short term but also in the long term.

Yesterday I met with John Macnamara, the chairman of Algoma, and we had a substantive discussion about Monday's announcement of the latest indefinite layoffs. I also want to advise the member that over the noon hour today, myself and my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) met with Leo Gérard, the director of District 6, and local officials of the steelworkers union and explored with them, in a preliminary way, the request they have made for details from the company on the need for these reductions. We indicated to the union that we are prepared to help bring the parties together to make sure that the union is given the ability to find out all it needs to know as to why these drastic cutbacks are necessary.

Mr. Morin-Strom: As to specific action the minister could be involved in, he must be concerned about his ministry's ineffectiveness in protecting workers from massive layoffs and the fact that, for example, less than five per cent of

layoffs ever result in severance pay compensation to workers. Steel plant workers have recall rights preventing them from collecting severance pay. In the case of tenure employees, those recall rights are permanent, so they would never be eligible for severance pay.

Will the minister immediately introduce amendments to the Ontario labour legislation to ensure that every laid-off worker who exhausts unemployment insurance benefits will automatically become eligible for severance pay, without affecting the recall rights?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I cannot give my friend an assurance that I will immediately introduce amendments to the Employment Standards Act, though we are looking at the whole issue of severance pay, as he knows.

Let me share with my friend and with the House my concern about the usefulness of introducing these amendments. The member knows that severance pay, when paid, along with pension benefits, when paid, are going to be deducted dollar for dollar from unemployment insurance payments.

I and the members of this government do not know of any situation that is quite as ridiculous as this. I suggest to the member and to all members of the House that it is high time Mr. Mulroney and Mr. Wilson got off their high horse and agreed with Mr. Kelleher, and apparently most of the members of the Tory cabinet and the Tory caucus, and rolled back and reversed this absolutely ridiculous decision.

CHEESE FACTORY

Mr. Villeneuve: Has the Minister of Agriculture and Food contacted the St. Albert cheese factory in Russell county recently in order to review its particular problem with quota?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: When the matter of the St. Albert cheese factory was first brought to the attention of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I had a meeting with my staff and they are looking into the problems. We hope to call in the various organizations responsible for the milk marketing program in this province to see if there is something we can do about the smaller, independent cheese factories that maintain they do not have sufficient quota in order to manufacture not only cheddar cheese, but specialty cheese as well. We are looking into it.

Mr. Villeneuve: As the minister well knows, the St. Albert cheese factory is one of the very few farmer-owned milk processing plants in Ontario. The minister seems to be well in tune with what the Premier said. Now that he has his

leader's blessing, when does the minister expect to go to St. Albert and tell them what their quota increase will be? We are running into the lush time of the year when milk production generally goes up. They need to know now. When will he tell them, and how much does he expect to tell them their quota increase will be?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The member knows full well that I have absolutely no jurisdiction over the allotment of quota. That is done by the Ontario Milk Marketing Board. I do not dictate to the board what it is going to do regarding quota for individual plants. I did tell the member that we intend to meet with the Ontario Milk Marketing Board and the Milk Commission of Ontario to see whether something different can be done regarding quotas for these smaller, independent cheese factories. However, I have no jurisdiction over allotment of quotas—none whatsoever.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Foulds: I have a new question for the Minister of Labour, if the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) will sit down and let me have a clear shot at him.

In view of the largest layoffs since 1983 in January and February of this year—2,202 and 1,651, respectively—for Ontario as a whole, and in view of the fact that the unemployment rate in northern Ontario is 50 per cent higher than that for Ontario as a whole, is the minister aware that the closure of the Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant in Thunder Bay tomorrow is the beginning of another 3,650 layoffs in northern Ontario in Thunder Bay, Terrace Bay, Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie? In view of that, may I ask the minister what mechanisms—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Yes, I am aware of the ever-expanding numbers of layoffs, particularly in northern Ontario. They are matters of great concern to the government, not just to this minister but to all members of the government. We are seeking ways and means of addressing them, but the solutions are not as simple as the problem, as the honourable member knows.

Mr. Foulds: Does the minister not recall saying on March 11, 1982, in response to the Ford engine plant layoffs in his part of the province, "We must put mechanisms in place which can lead to an avoidance of shutdowns and where management, labour, the community and

the government can...perhaps find a way to avoid these shutdowns and these layoffs which are so crippling to the workers'?"

Can he tell me as minister, now that he has had power and authority for 10 months, what mechanisms he has put in place to avoid these layoffs that are so crippling to workers?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The issues of plant shutdowns and closures, and indeed justification and notice, are under intensive and full review, particularly as we look for short-term solutions that would help northern Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: Sure, while another 4,000 people get the boot.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I share the frustration of my friend. We are looking for solutions to very complex problems. I have not changed the view I expressed back in 1982 of putting mechanisms in place, but I might share with the member and repeat what I suggested to him the other day in answer to a previous question—

Mr. Martel: Section 104 of the Mining Act.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I suggest to my friends the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) that one of the things we can do in the short term is to try to encourage as much as possible both management and labour to come to government to share their problems and to let government work with them at a very early stage in trying to solve those problems.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Jackson: My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. The Ontario public service internship program is designed to provide experience training in all government ministries to recent post-secondary graduates for civil service positions. I understand from McMaster University and Carleton University that not all these positions were posted in all colleges and universities throughout our province. In fact, ministries and ministers made selective invitations to specific universities and colleges.

Can the minister tell us, in the interest of fairness to all students in this province, why he was not able to ensure that each and every community college and university received all the postings from all ministries so that students had a fair chance to apply?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The honourable member raises an interesting question. I had not been aware that these postings had not been made available to all colleges and universities. There was no selection on my part nor on the part of my

ministry that I am aware of. I will be delighted to take the question under advisement, look into it and find out. Our duty and obligation is to deal fairly and equitably with every student, from Thunder Bay to Kingston and Windsor. I will have a better and more accurate response for my friend in the near future.

Mr. Jackson: It is unfortunate the minister has just learned about it, because several of these positions indicate the competitions will be closing today, tomorrow and Friday. Taking it under advisement may not be a sufficient resolution for the many students who would like to apply and are unable to do so. Will the minister give us his assurance today that he will extend these closing dates for at least two weeks and circulate to each member of this House a list of uncompleted positions available in all the ministries so all students in the province will have a fair and equitable opportunity to apply for the positions?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not in a position at this point to give assurances of that sort to the member and the House. I will have my staff look into it on an emergency basis. If there has been unfairness to any part of this province, we will take appropriate remedial measures. I hope the member does not expect me, on the basis of the matter he raises now, to assure the House and the public that I will postpone for two weeks a process that has been ongoing for some time.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Education. The minister has stated that he is not prepared to extend funding to private schools. In a recent address, Dr. Shapiro, his newly appointed deputy minister, who has yet to take office, stated that if the ministry can provide \$65 million for computers, it can spend \$75 million for private schools. The minister has also hailed the court decision with respect to the constitutionality of separate school funding as the foundation of a major policy initiative in that direction. The deputy minister-to-be has stated categorically that in his view that decision is incorrect.

Mr. Speaker: Is your question, "Does the minister agree?"

Mr. Allen: Will the minister please comment on these apparently serious divergencies between himself and his deputy-to-be on major policy questions in education?

Hon. Mr. Conway: At the time of Dr. Shapiro's appointment as deputy minister effective

July 1, 1986, I was quite aware of the outstanding work he had performed on behalf of the province in his role as a solo commissioner on independent and private schools. I made it very clear what government policy was and is in this regard. Via Bill 30, this government intends to complete public funding of the last part of the separate school system in this province and does not intend to fund private schools. We have circulated Dr. Shapiro's outstanding work in this connection for public comment, but government policy is as I have stated it. I do not want the honourable member to be under any misapprehension about that.

Mr. Allen: The question of Dr. Shapiro's ability is beyond dispute, but I submit to the minister that on a fundamental question such as the constitutionality of a major development the ministry is promoting, for a deputy minister to be publicly asserting that the decision is wrong and incorrect is going to compound problems for him the greater the man's ability is.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister agree?

Mr. Allen: I wonder whether he should take it so calmly. For example, can he tell us whether it is in his interest to sow confusion by saying "the deputy minister says" and "the minister says"?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Let me say again that when the appointment of Dr. Shapiro was made some weeks ago by the Premier (Mr. Peterson), we made it clear that he was bringing a very outstanding reputation to his new responsibilities. I have made the intention of this government on the position of funding private schools very clear.

Today, for example, my colleague the government House leader has indicated that Donald C. MacDonald will be the new chairman of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses. Donald MacDonald has served the New Democratic Party and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation before it with great distinction. As of May 1, Donald C. MacDonald will assume new public responsibilities which I expect he will discharge with good—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Davis: I have a question for the Minister of Education. How does he explain the absolute contradiction of his position?

On July 4, the minister said in the House: "The fourth principle in this legislation is that there is to be no unemployment as a direct result of the policy regarding full funding. No teacher or other employee will lose his job as a result of this

policy of full funding." With respect to his new amendments, a designated teacher can be terminated by a Roman Catholic school board after two years of training.

Hon. Mr. Conway: There is no contradiction, but there is a confusion in the mind of my friend the member for Scarborough Centre. Let me try to deal with that confusion, because I do not like to see my distinguished friend, the spokesman on matters of education for the official opposition, so confused.

What we have done in the amendments is to broaden the basis of the protection being afforded public school teachers who will find themselves in the separate school system as a result of extension. We have done so because my friend the member for Scarborough Centre, and more especially my friend the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), have said it would be a very good idea to provide in the legislation a grounds of conscience on which an individual might object.

I want to make very clear that the practice of the first year and a half has been that no teacher or public school employee has lost his or her job as a result of extension. That is the government's view and commitment. It will be fully discharged, quite apart from the confusion of the honourable member.

STANDING ORDERS

Mr. Speaker: Can I have the attention of the members for a moment?

I have paid particular attention to the new procedure during members' and ministers' statements, and I feel that in the future we might run into a difficulty that has occurred in the House of Commons. I know the guidelines for members' statements there state that no statement should be used in any way as a personal attack on another member. Because we have no specific guidelines and it is left to the Speaker, I hope that in the future members' and ministers' statements will be used for the regular purpose and not in any way for personal attacks. I ask all members to continue to be honourable members.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Andrewes: I have a number of petitions from constituents of the good riding of Lincoln who ask the government of Ontario "to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre, from 8.3 cents a

litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately, and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

Mr. Polsinelli: I have a petition addressed to the government of Ontario which reads as follows:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre, from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately, and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

To show the international concern of this petition, I received 558 from Ontario, two from Quebec, one from Alberta, one from British Columbia, two from Newfoundland, one from Florida and one from Arizona. I also received a Petro-Canada card which was cut in half, although I think the sender may have wanted to send it to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. Pollock: I have before me a petition, signed by 85 members of the Ontario Motor League who live in my riding, that I want to present to the Premier (Mr. Peterson). It requests the government of Ontario to immediately reduce the gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre, from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre, and to phase in further reductions over a three-year period to 5.14 cents a litre by 1989.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

SENIORS' INDEPENDENCE ACT

Mr. Warner moved first reading of Bill 3, An act for the Provision and Integration of Community-based Services for Seniors.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Warner: The short title of the bill is the Seniors' Independence Act. It creates a framework for the provision of community-based support services for seniors and the integration of these services with established programs and facilities. It is intended that the support services will give seniors greater independence and will prevent their unnecessary institutionalization by giving them access to programs that will assist them in carrying out day-to-day tasks.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Grossman: I cannot say I have looked forward to this great opportunity to participate in

the response from this side of the House to the speech from the throne. I take this opportunity to say that while I will try to be brief in my remarks, I will fail in that attempt. I will fail because there is much we have to say in our first opportunity to comment in opposition about the attempt of the government to set out an agenda for the province, apparently much more than the government had to say after a lot of years trying to write this speech.

Needless to say, we on this side of the House have some expertise in writing these speeches, if not in responding to them. Perhaps we will get an opportunity to write them once again if the current flagging attempts by the government of Ontario to write these things continue to be as empty as is this first attempt.

3:40 p.m.

I begin by once again welcoming you, Mr. Speaker, to your responsibilities for this session. We appreciate a continuance of the evenhandedness with which you have been governing affairs here, at least in the past couple of days, if not before that. We will continue to look for your guidance.

The government likes to make much of the fact that there were some 42 years between Liberal throne speeches. It likes to hark back to those 42 years when other people had the responsibility of governing the province.

However, I think it is equally appropriate now for us to comment on what the Liberals used their 42 years in opposition to do and to think about, because it is very fair for all of us to note that the speech delivered last week should have reflected—and, I presume, did reflect—42 years of experience and thought and a collection of 42 years' worth of ideas put together by the Liberal Party.

It was their opportunity, for the first time after 42 years, to place their unique stamp on this province, its future and its people. When one looks at the document, one wonders where that vision is. They had the opportunity. It lacks the vision. Where are the expressions of hope, of promise and of opportunity?

The government, after all, cannot beg off, as they did for too many months, by saying they are new in office, that they inherited 42 years, that they are just learning their jobs. They cannot do that. They have now been in office for close to one full year. In writing this throne speech, they had no excuses, no third party to blame or to take the credit. I know the third party in this House does not want any of the credit. Indeed, in writing this throne speech, they did not even have

Tories to blame. They have only themselves to stand up and take all the credit for all the things that are not there.

There are no new approaches, no new ideas. Instead of firm promises, instead of specifics, we get buzzwords. We get new ones such as "knowledge worker," used twice. We get buzzwords such as "world class," used seven times, and "excellence," used 10 times.

I wondered, when I listened to the speech last week, where they had come up with all of this dated material. Perhaps they had discovered it in an unopened filing cabinet left over from the mid-70s in the Office of the Premier; and lo and behold, when they opened it, as the leader of the third party has said, they perhaps discovered a throne speech that had been written by Bill Davis and Hugh Segal.

They have both complained about the allegation hurled by the member for York South (Mr. Rae) that they could have written the throne speech. They did not say they had not; they pointed out that they had—in about 1976 or 1977. They were simply embarrassed to have anyone suggest they would have written that same speech in 1986. But the government, a government that had 42 years to write the throne speech, was not embarrassed.

Suffice it to say that this throne speech represents a program of so little substance, so little new direction that after one year in office the public legitimately has to ask, "What is it that this new administration stands for?" We would acknowledge, as the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) might say, the ability to cherry pick in the marketplace of jargon. They sure did that well. We knew what the contributions of the member for Renfrew North were.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: An orchard.

Mr. Grossman: To him it would be an orchard. The member for Renfrew North no doubt went out and looked for all the trendy marginalia available and offered it to the poor Lieutenant Governor, who had to stand and read that collection of trendy words, jargon and buzzwords.

If this is really the new David Peterson, if this is the real David Peterson, if this is what he really cares about—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: What you see is what there is.

Mr. Grossman: —if this is what it is—as the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) says, "What you see is what there is"—we on this side are both relieved and concerned. We are relieved because, as partisans, we have now seen into the heart and

soul of our party's main opponent and we have found the emptiness that we suspected always existed. In many ways, we were not surprised. After all, in opposition they flitted from position to position like hummingbirds from branch to branch.

On some issues, such as energy pricing, extra billing, doctors' fees and bilingualism, over the years the present Premier had more positions than Masters and Johnson. Now that they are in government, that fundamental, philosophical void has produced a list of me-too-isms and add-ons that speak to a fruit without a core. We can look at this throne speech, or let us call it properly Premier Peterson's vision of Ontario, and conclude that we and the public now know what his most profound beliefs really are. The one thing we can conclude is that they are neither profound nor deep; they are shallow.

For all their talk of no walls and no barriers, this speech, this sad grade 10 essay masquerading as a government program, sets up brand-new walls and brand-new barriers between the "Beam me up, Scotty" view of Ontario—that is what it was; a little boosterism—and the real-life issues and the real challenges facing the real people of Ontario. They were listening and waiting, but it was not there.

It is the people of this province, the steelworkers and the auto workers, the people whom the former opposition party to our left sometimes used to see, whom the government of the day now never sees. They have no time for these people because of their heavy schedule of pay-as-you-meet-the-ministers cocktail receptions in the best clubs of Ontario. The reason the auto workers and steelworkers were left out of the throne speech is because they do not get to meet the ministers of this government. They do not have the \$1,000, they do not belong to the best clubs and they do not get to meet the Premier and his ministers.

The auto workers see some new barriers now. It has been a long time since Ontario's most important industries, the pulp and paper industry, the auto industry and the steel industry, were left out of a fundamental program for Ontario, but they were left out last week. We were not surprised, because this was not a speech to deal with reality nor an attempt to deal with real current problems. It deals with the perceived reality, a new smoke-and-mirrors reality.

As partisans, I suppose we rejoice that the process of self-delusion has now begun in earnest as this government settles complacently into its second year in government. I say to the Premier

and to most of his senior ministers who are not able to be here today, a government that cannot see the truth will soon be insensitive to it and will soon be its next victim. To the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), and he should know it better than anyone else, I say that self-delusion is the beginning of self-destruction.

As Tories we rejoice in a partisan way at the emptiness of that throne speech, but as Ontarians and Canadians, which we are first, we do not rejoice. The opportunity missed in that throne speech is not the Premier's opportunity, not his ministers' opportunity, not John Kruger's opportunity or even this Legislature's opportunity. The missed opportunity belongs to the people of this province: the aged who await action, the young who seek work and the patients and doctors of this province who seek equity and fairness, not turbulence, turmoil and strife. Their opportunities are being squandered.

3:50 p.m.

We must ask what the events of a year ago were all about. What was it all for? I wonder if the program of that throne speech was really what many in the labour movement and many in the New Democratic Party so deeply hoped for when they defeated the former government and put in place this government. Is that what they wanted? Is this kind of empty throne speech what the NDP wanted for the labourers of this province, for the auto workers and the steelworkers? If it shares our belief that emptiness is a hollow ring through this house, the New Democratic Party of Ontario has only itself to blame for that throne speech.

Is this the fresh wind of reform that was supposed to sweep through this House last year, or is it, as is now obvious, a lot less than meets the eye? When a party wanders for 42 years out there in the wilderness of rejection as the Liberals did, one thinks it would develop a notion of what went wrong for it through all those years.

What did they do instead? Once they had kicked aside their foot soldiers in the NDP, what did they turn to? Not surprisingly, because we know the hearts and souls of the people across the floor, they quickly grasped a 1950s version of small-c conservatism. It is a 1955 time warp. Today's leaders of industry and labour reject that kind of politics in 1986. It is unrealistic. It is sadly superficial.

One would think that after 42 years the Liberal Party of Ontario, even with the smooth craftsmanship of the Treasurer and the Minister of Education, might be able to do more than offer us a brochure for the Niagara Institute, a grade 6 primer on yesterday's agenda, in programs.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was grade 10 a few minutes ago. It is slipping.

Mr. Grossman: What grade did you think it was?

Mr. Rae: You changed the grade.

Mr. Grossman: It would have been grade 8 but you abandoned them, now it is grade 4. It is a sad commentary and we regret it on behalf of the people of Ontario.

It is first and foremost a document which seeks not to help the people of this province but to ride the puck until they feel they can force an election when they believe they can win, jettison their NDP footmen once and for all and do it with lots of style and as little substance as possible. In the interim, health care is needlessly threatened by a government that has simply forgotten it is dealing with doctors—I say to the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson), as he will know, doctors who are as much good Ontarians as the Premier or the real Minister of Health, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). The doctors of this province are as dedicated to the health care system, as committed to full accessibility, as is the government's chief negotiator, the Attorney General.

The people of this province are citizens like all others: taxpayers, community leaders, key partners in the delivery of health care. "No walls and barriers," the Premier likes to say. Of course, there are no walls and barriers unless you dare dissent from the superficial party line of the day. "No walls and barriers." Ask the pharmacists, doctors, lawyers and next the dentists. Who is next? Wait for the next target group to be identified by Goldfarb and friends and it will be in the next throne speech.

We see what is happening across the province. The Premier play-acts it is sweetness and light. It is good politics. He is the yuppie version as he studied it, the yuppie version of Bill Davis. That is the style he has copied, and even the style that the Minister of Education likes to put on from time to time. We remember when he sat just about here. He chirped like a canary, as my friend the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) likes to say, until he got over there. Then it was the double-breasted suits, the vests, the airs of office, and nary a word from the former canary. We understand they are all copying from the Bill Davis handbook. However, my friends have forgotten a little substance. You borrowed all the substance you have.

Let us look across at what is happening. Behind the sweetness, lightness and style that the Premier likes to adopt, who can forget the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), in

his arbitrary and insulting way, moving easily to destroy the reputations of firms, businesses and communities? But no matter; it is a great headline.

There was the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) going to speak to some of the leading health care specialists in the province and taunting them, cajoling them, insulting them. Indeed, at that function he ambushed them; not a style appropriate to government.

There is the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), a man who as we saw earlier today will holler, get excited and overreact at the slightest provocation. He was given to the greatest exaggeration and provocation when he was in opposition. Now he wanders around like a wounded calf if anyone dares to step in the way of his Eugene Whelan green-hat style of hollering and yelling throughout the province as a policy for agriculture.

There is my friend the Minister of Education. The members will remember that we used to think he was perhaps the brightest man on the Liberal benches.

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: I made a mistake. He used to think he was the brightest man on the benches across the way. We watch the Minister of Education daily as he winces at the performance of some of his friends in the second row behind him. He can hardly conceal it.

We know about some of the pet projects of the Treasurer of Ontario. We know why the Urban Transportation Development Corp. is being sold. We know why the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education is being closed. We know why the Ontario Economic Council, a source of independent thought, has been disbanded. No walls or barriers; of course not. You do not need a wall or barrier between independent, economic thought and the government if you destroy them first. You do not need to build a wall between them. The parliamentary debates in this House are replete with the Treasurer's attacks on UTDC, OISE and the OEC. He comes to government and without consulting his colleagues, without telling them what is in his budget, without doing any study whatsoever and without consulting the board of UTDC or OISE or the economic council, there is a quick flick of the Nixon wrist and they are gone.

An hon. member: Just like Darcy McKeough told me to do.

Mr. Grossman: He said it was just like Darcy told him to do. The devil made him do it. "Let them eat cake," he said to the people at OISE. We

understand, but let us not pretend that this government therefore presents through its budget documents or the throne speech anything like a vision, a sense of hope, a sense of direction. It is a combination of the latest buzzwords of the Minister of Education, some pet peeves, a hit list from the Treasurer of Ontario, some jargon and policies retreaded from previous documents and perhaps some new ideas vaguely showing their way, introduced by the putative minister of industry, Patrick Lavelle. We know what the plans are.

Mr. Ferraro: Does that mean you do not like it?

Mr. Grossman: No, it means the people of Ontario are wondering where the real throne speech is. They are wondering where the substance is. I say to the member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro) that in Guelph they are wondering where it is. Last year they said they wanted change. They look at this document and they see emptiness. They see no sense of direction and they say, "What is in this document that is going to help one unemployed person in Guelph in 1986 or 1987?" The response of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) is: "Let me read you the job statistics. There were 170,000 new jobs created in Ontario." He is right about those jobs being created, and he would be accurate and fair if he acknowledged that those jobs were created in 1985, obviously by the previous administration in this province.

4 p.m.

We would never have the effrontery to go to the unemployed people in Guelph, or to those in Brantford, I say to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), or Collingwood, I say to the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), or to the unemployed people in a lot of communities across this province and say to them, as does the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil): "Not to worry. There were 170,000 jobs created in Ontario last year." The minister wants to hand them a press release saying: "Not to worry. Lots of other people got jobs; you get in the headline. Do not worry; lots of other people got new jobs, so there could not be a problem." This throne speech gives them the same arrogant back of the hand and says: "Not to worry. We are thinking about the year 2010."

The government's price of entry, the admission fee it paid to the New Democrats to move across the aisle, was apparently the only price it paid to acquire policy and the only policy it acquired. Doctors, teachers, students, patients,

senior citizens, truckers, farmers, lawyers, police forces, pharmacists and municipalities all have seen the brutal force of the Premier. They all have seen the arrogance, the back of the hand as he tromps on with the agenda he purchased and the nonagenda he just wrote.

When we look over that throne speech, it indicates something worse than a lack of direction. It is a cynical approach to the people of this province. It is an approach that says to the auto workers, the steelworkers, the pulp and paper workers and laid-off steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie: "We are not interested in your problems. We have nothing new to add." The breath of change that was offered and that the public said candidly it wanted a year ago, now has gone; it has vanished. It is an approach that says: "We will trot out a bunch of old policies. We will package them with a fancy new cover, and we will call that a new policy for Ontario."

Let me talk briefly about some of those policies. Let us look at where the government went to get the items in its throne speech. Let us go through some of the major initiatives.

The proposal to establish a Canadian insurance exchange in Toronto, which is a good idea, was stolen from one made by the then Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Robert Elgie, who released a report on November 3, 1983. The proposal was subsequently approved by the cabinet of Ontario. It is nothing new; it was Bob Elgie's idea.

Beer and wine in the grocery stores is the sum and substance of this government's economic policy in the last provincial campaign. I must say, though, the last provincial campaign did not include roadside rest stops as they are included in the throne speech. There is nothing new about this one either.

Here is one of the people of Ontario have to worry about when it comes to their high-tech future. The throne speech says the government will establish a Premier's council to administer a 10-year, \$1-billion technology fund. When one looks behind it, is it \$1 billion? No. Is it \$500 million? No. Is it \$50 million? Yes. It is a new \$50 million per year. That is their commitment to high technology.

In 1985, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development had \$500 million a year in its program. This one-year-old Liberal government, holding out a high-tech vision of the future, establishes a \$50-million-a-year fund. That is it. That is one tenth of the former BILD budget. It is less than one tenth of what is raised every year through the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

That is this government's commitment to high technology.

The Premier believes he can run the Urban Transportation Development Corp. better than the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton). The Premier believes he can run the doctors' negotiations better than the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). The Premier believes he can make the decisions on the domed stadium better than anyone else. The Premier believes too that he can make the decisions on high-technology investments better than anyone else in the province.

The Premier is going to head the Premier's council. Is this new? Of course not. Is it \$1 billion? No. Is it as much as the previous government had in place? No. Does it match the enterprise technology fund, from which it stole this idea and which had \$250 million over three years? No. What is the difference? Is this a new program? No. There is only one thing new about it: The Premier wants to spend that money himself. No doubt he wants to make the decisions with John Kruger. Let us not pretend that the high-technology fund or the Premier's council has a whit of a new idea in it. It was taken right from the enterprise technology fund, directly from BILD.

The throne speech goes on to talk about a science, technology and culture office in China, appointing an Agent General to Japan and opening a trade office in South Korea. Is there anything new about this? There is nothing new. Where did they steal this one from? It is a direct steal from the Enterprise Ontario program put forward a year ago.

The government did not go out and write it anywhere. They did not have a group of people thinking up new options. They simply said, "We will take that Frank Miller program from a year ago." Does the Premier remember how the Liberals ran against that program? When it came time to write a throne speech, the government's cupboard was bare. It went out and took that right out of the Enterprise Ontario program, with not a new word.

Are initiatives in the Far East new? No. When this member was Minister of Industry and Tourism five years ago, he opened the trade office in Hong Kong. Over the past few years, the previous government set up special funds to expand into the Far East. The new government's whole idea of opening up this vast new area—as if it has never been opened up before—is to open two more offices and to put more money into it. We support it. Let us not pretend it is new,

though; it is right out of the previous government's programs.

When one listens to the response given the other day by the current Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology about wanting to broaden trade with the United States, one has to wonder what the people in Philadelphia think about that idea. After that great speech from the minister the other day about wanting to increase trade with the US, we have to remember the Liberal government closed our trade office in Philadelphia. That is a fine way to expand trade.

Let us look at another throne speech initiative to see whether it is new: a program to encourage young women to explore career opportunities in nontraditional fields, especially in the science and technology fields. Where did it get this one from? That is easy; it is the Open Doors program launched by the previous government in February 1984. It is an exact duplicate reannouncement of the Open Doors policy. This one is two years old.

Another initiative is to set up a nonprofit information technology centre to provide assistance and technology development and to improve public understanding of information technology. Is a technology centre not a brand-new idea? It is six years since the previous government put in place six high-technology centres. That one is six years old. It did not take much creative genius on the other side to come up with the idea of having a seventh centre. It took nothing to come up with that idea. That is what this government is made of: It looks at old documents, and if one worked in the past—and our high-technology centres did—it builds another. That is its high-technology initiative.

4:10 p.m.

Let us look at another initiative: to undertake special efforts to make training opportunities available to women, single parents and special-needs groups. Where did they get this one? They got it from the June 1985 throne speech. They rewrote it almost exactly. We are complimented by it, but let us not pretend there is a single new thing in this throne speech. That is from the last throne speech.

One of the agricultural initiatives set out is to enhance programs offering marketing support for Ontario farmers. I have been in this House and have heard the current Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), who I see is now signing mail with the Foodland Ontario insignia at the bottom of the letterhead. The brand-new initiative in the throne speech is to enhance marketing support for Ontario farmers. We agree it should

be enhanced every year; only we would have expected that in the throne speech he would have had the courtesy to refer to the existing Foodland Ontario program, which led the country in promoting support for farmers and marketing. He might have said he would support and improve upon the very successful Foodland Ontario program, which the previous government put in place. Again there is nothing new.

I know that when the Minister of Agriculture and Food goes riding on his green hat throughout rural Ontario, he will be sure not to take all the credit for the Foodland Ontario program as he tried to take all the credit for the stabilization program, when his sole contribution was to take his pen in his right hand and sign his name to it. He was given the right to do that by the member for York South (Mr. Rae).

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The member's party tried for four years.

Mr. Grossman: The minister's entire contribution was to sign a program developed by the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), who led the country in putting that program together. The minister then accepted the pen from the leader of the third party and signed the document. I know he tells the farmers that as he rides his green hat.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Four years passed, and still the Conservative Party could not close the deal.

Mr. McGuigan: It takes a "closer."

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It takes a man of action to get the job done.

Miss Stephenson: The only thing active about the minister is his tongue.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) had better not get sick again now.

Miss Stephenson: The minister has no need to worry.

Mr. Grossman: The minister should try to hide his real self this afternoon. It will serve him better.

I go on to northern Ontario. The throne speech says the government will establish programs to provide marketing assistance to northern Ontario farmers and widen consumer choice in that region. Again I ask, has the Minister of Agriculture and Food no new programs in that green hat? Has he nothing that is not simply an extension of the previous government's programs?

Last year the people of Ontario said, "Pretty good so far," but they wanted change. What they got in this throne speech and from the Minister of

Agriculture and Food is not change of anything except a certain style of decency and fairness. That is what has changed. That is all gone. There is no balance.

Mr. McGuigan: The Leader of the Opposition should ask the farmers of Ontario. They will tell him.

Mr. Grossman: If they want hollering and colour instead of substance, if they want style instead of substance, and if they want green hats instead of real programs, then that is what they have.

Mr. McGuigan: Does the member think they do not know what substance is? He is insulting the farmers of Ontario, and he will answer for it.

Mr. Grossman: I say to the honourable member that they are seeing all fluff. The same thing that happened to Eugene Whelan is going to happen to the current Minister of Agriculture and Food. He cannot fool the farmers of this province. This song-and-dance routine will catch up with the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Style does not fool farmers. They are looking for substance. The member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) has more substance than the current Minister of Agriculture and Food has ever had, and that will come through with less style but all substance.

The throne speech offers to provide marketing assistance for northern Ontario farmers. Not only is that a good idea, but it is also exactly the AgriNorth program launched in April 1984 by the member for Don Mills. It is nothing new; it is a reannouncement of the previous program.

Another initiative is to establish a modern pesticides and food-quality laboratory. I was personally flattered that the Minister of Agriculture and Food found a way to include that in his new agricultural policy, because it is an exact repeat from one of my policy papers during the first leadership convention. I appreciate that the minister read it; I trust he understood it. Surely in the throne speech, with his massive—to use the appropriate word—background in agriculture, he could have developed something in addition to what the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick in downtown Toronto was able to develop for the farmers of Ontario. No, he stole this part of the throne speech from a Larry Grossman policy pamphlet from January 1985.

There is additional assistance for soil conservation programs for farmers. Is that new? No. It is exactly what has been done since March 1983, with the five-year, \$25.5-million Ontario soil conservation and environmental protection assistance program. An expansion of that program

was committed to a year ago in the last throne speech. Is there anything new in this throne speech? Nothing, not a word.

The throne speech goes on to offer "programs to assist the victim of crime and physical abuse, the forgotten person in the system. Victim assistance programs will be expanded to alleviate the suffering of battered women and children." The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) ought to go to Ottawa and read that part of the throne speech to the people whose services he has cut adrift. His commitment to stop family violence and to the victims of child abuse, rape and spousal assaults goes so far as to say: "It is up to the municipality. I am not going to interfere." He does not care enough.

Mrs. Marland: The United Way does.

Mr. Grossman: The United Way cares enough. The government thinks it is a good program, but the government that wrote these words in the throne speech does not care enough to find, not a lot of money, but a few thousand dollars, to solve this problem in Ottawa. Is this program new? It is nothing new. It is an excerpt from a previous throne speech and a development of the Progressive Conservative government's Break the Silence program launched in October 1984. There is nothing new for victims of family violence.

In the health care field—

Interjection.

Mr. Grossman: I hope the government whip will listen to this as she is sitting at the desk of the current Minister of Health, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). In the health care field, "A multidisciplinary department of geriatrics will be established at an Ontario university." It is a very good proposal, exactly as was written in the care for the elderly paper this party put out three weeks ago. Is there anything new? No, there is nothing new; it was stolen from our policy papers. That was a good move.

The throne speech says, "Active partnerships in teaching and learning between schools and local business will be promoted, to permit students, school staff and business people to work side by side on mutually beneficial projects." Is there anything new? Absolutely not. This is lifted from the Enterprise Ontario program, which included the industry and school training program that would have provided exactly the same support. Is there anything new? There is nothing new. The government stole that one from Enterprise Ontario.

Mr. McGuigan: Everything in the world belongs to the Conservatives. The whole world belongs to them.

Mr. Grossman: What does the government own? I ask the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) to tell us what is new in the throne speech. When the member gets an opportunity to participate in the throne speech debate, I invite him to take his time to tell us what is new in this document. Let him tell the people in his riding, especially the farmers and the auto parts workers, what in this document is not out of Enterprise Ontario, previous Progressive Conservative throne speeches, party documents put out by the former government or policy papers put out by candidates for the leadership of this party. Let him find us the initiatives. There are not any.

4:20 p.m.

The Treasurer and the other ministers, all of whom have had this kind of smoke-and-mirrors reassembly of previous programs put together by Duncan Allan, have taken Duncan Allan's talents and run them in reverse. What has happened is sad. They have taken all those programs, folded in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and folded in Enterprise Ontario, dismantled them, put no new money in them, no new thoughts in them and announced them as disassembled programs. They could have done better, and they did not.

The throne speech goes to say, "Greater effort will be devoted to helping students and teachers become more familiar...with new computer technology." Where is that one from? It is partly from the 1984 computers and children program in the budget of 1984, it is partly an extension of the education technology division program undertaken by the former Minister of Education under the previous government and it is part of the Canadian-made microcomputer program launched by the previous government, by the member for York Mills as Minister of Education, in 1981. Anything new about computers and education? There is nothing new.

Back to the throne speech: "Greater emphasis will be placed on co-operative education programs." Is there anything new about co-op education programs? Nothing new. They were first established under the previous government several years ago. The Enterprise Ontario program offered the same kind of enrichment and the same kinds of programs. Is there anything new in the speech from the throne? No, it is right from Enterprise Ontario.

The speech from the throne speaks of extending the \$80-million post-secondary excellence fund to be used for renewal of faculty and physical plant. Anything new in that? That comes right from the BILD-supported capital

acceleration program in 1984. The university research incentive fund—that is what it is, I say to the government whip—is from the budget in 1984. The Enterprise Ontario program offered a \$5-million enrichment, and the 1985 speech from the throne would have established a quality education fund of \$100 million for exactly these purposes. Nothing new. The government just took it out of all those previous documents and rewrote it in its speech from the throne.

Computerized job search programs: We heard from the Minister of Education about this the other day. Where did they get this one from? They got it from the excellent array of computers that has been in place through the youth employment counselling centres in various locations throughout Ontario. They are already there. Anything new with computers? Nothing.

The throne speech says, "A greater priority will be placed on the retraining needs of older workers and others in the work force." I will begin by saying that the Treasurer did nothing, zero, for those people in his budget of last year. He cut them adrift all through the winter of 1985-86. Did he put anything new in the speech from the throne? Not a thing. It is simply an extension of the Ontario skills fund contained in the 1984-85 budget, with no new money. The Enterprise Ontario technology fund would have covered the same area. Anything new? No, this is BILD and Enterprise Ontario.

Support for small business: The speech from the throne says it will expand the mandate of the small business development corporations to include the service sector. This one comes from the BILD program, the 1979 budget, proposals made by two of the candidates for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party and the Enterprise Ontario program. Anything new in this? Not a thing.

We could go on, because the list goes on. I simply want to make this point once again. I have gone through 10 or 15 initiatives, and they are the major ones. I have not talked about the other ones.

Mr. McClellan: Is that all?

Mr. Grossman: No. There are more, such as remote sensing and computerized mapping. It struck me—

Mr. Rae: It is to track down Dennis. It is the only way you will get hold of Timbrell.

Mr. Grossman: It is the only way we will find you in the public opinion polls. Worse than that, they are not even looking for you any more. They do not know you even exist.

When I heard "remote sensing" and "computerized mapping," why did those words jump out? When I was chairman of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, that was the precise program proposed by the then Minister of Natural Resources through BILD. There is nothing even in the small programs, save and except perhaps for restrooms along the highways, that reflects anything new that the government has to offer. Nothing.

It is a sad commentary that what it comes down to is beer and wine in the grocery stores and rest stops along the highway. That is the government's industrial policy.

We, on this side, have been approaching these issues from a quite different standpoint. We have some belief in the workers and the people of Ontario. We believe they can compete. We believe we do not have to write off a whole generation of Ontarians while we wait for David Peterson's London School of Economics' phoney, \$50-million-a-year high-tech fund. We are not prepared to write them off.

We believe our people can compete today, both nationally and internationally. We are not afraid to boost them in their opportunities to compete today. We are not prepared to write off all those auto workers out there or the laid-off steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie, give them the back of the hand and say: "I am sorry. The Premier is busy. He is heading up his new research council with a group of business people." That is not for us.

We ask the government to get down to the bread-and-butter issues; to talk about those people who are currently unemployed in Ontario. We do not want to see the government, on the one hand, talk about expensive high-technology funds and, on the other hand, to satisfy the pet peeves of the Treasurer, throw all our urban transit technology out the window without study, analysis or consultation.

Does it make sense to use all the big buzzwords about high technology and Ontario's research future when, at the same time, some of the most skilled engineers and scientists in urban technology are leaving the UTDC daily? They know they have no secure future because the government is bailing out on them and walking away from our world-scale technology.

It is a sad irony that, no doubt, some time in the next day or two, the Premier of Ontario will be out at Expo 86 bragging about our "world-class technology," to use his favourite words. He will be talking to the world at Expo 86 about the great technology produced here in Ontario, which both

he and his Treasurer opposed from day one; that very technology which he is throwing out the window and which has been crafted, built and designed here in Ontario by people who this day, as the Premier stands proudly in Vancouver, are looking for jobs in the United States and other places because they have no future left with UTDC in Ontario.

This throne speech, while it has all those buzzwords—knowledge, workers, excellence, world-class—says nothing about housing. Ours will. It promises nothing for child care. Ours will. It is not willing to go as far as my party is on employment equity in the public service. Regardless of the lack of commitment the government has to the women of this province in the public service, we will not be deterred in fighting for their rights. The government may back off as soon as it has signed a deal with the New Democratic Party and it may jettison the women of this province working in the public service. However, this Progressive Conservative Party will not do that, and we will hold the government to account.

4:30 p.m.

The public feels that it does not want complacency. It does not want mediocrity. In this speech, the government has chosen mediocrity. We, over here, choose reform and achievement. They have no agenda over there. Our agenda is a new agenda for a new Ontario where the accident of geography of one's birth will not limit one's opportunities.

In one year, having been given some new ideas from the New Democrats, after jettisoning them and saying goodbye, they have moved into a comfortable pew of complacency. We on this side prefer and demand a more energetic pursuit of excellence for the people of Ontario.

Much of what is right about Ontario was built decades ago and must now be changed or reformed, but much of what is about to go wrong in Ontario, much of what is causing some of that to crack now and some of those people to flee, whether they are, to use the words of the Premier, world-class doctors or world-class scientists at the UTDC—they are now leaving; having second thoughts about what was built in Ontario over those years.

There is a new spirit in this land; a new spirit in Ontario that has been missed by the government; a spirit that says the purpose of any government must be to serve the people, not serve itself; a spirit that says the function of government is not to own everything or take it over, not to stifle initiative but to encourage it; a spirit that says you

do not write off a generation of unemployed people by sending out the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to brag that there were lots of new jobs created in 1985; an attitude out there that says, "Let us get on now." People out there sent a message a year ago; this party neither denies that fact nor missed the message.

An hon. member: They sent it a month ago; they sent it two weeks ago.

Mr. Grossman: I say to the chief government whip that when the people of this province have a sense of what the Liberals have done, when they have a sense of what the government has accomplished in terms of dividing our society in one short year, that message will be much different.

Look at what the government has done in a year. It has attacked our health care system and some of the world's best doctors residing in this province are fleeing the Liberal government. It has attacked other of our province's professionals. It has raised taxes by \$700 million. It has had a 33 per cent increase in the deficit. It has lost our credit rating. The member for London South (Mrs. E. J. Smith) should tell them that back in London. She should go home to London and brag about the tax increase, the 30 per cent increase in the deficit and the loss of the credit rating.

That is not all it has done in a year. It has sold off and destroyed our urban transportation leadership. It has done away with youth employment programs. It has reneged on pay equity in the public service. It has underfunded universities, not even meeting the transfer levels of the previous year. It is attacking the views of the police chiefs and the municipalities of this province by insisting stubbornly on having beer and wine in our grocery stores.

It has selected and developed a two-faced, inequitable backroom deal with landlords that will sell out the tenants of this province and give them not four per cent rent increases, not six per cent, but give many of them eight per cent rent increases without appeal, thanks to the deal the government cut behind their backs. That is not bad work for eight or nine months.

For a government that has been in office for one year to have launched such an all-out attack on our doctors shows the kind of arrogance that the Premier showed yesterday. What is Dr. Munro to think when he turns on the electronic Hansard, when he turns up cable channel 39 and hears the Premier saying that because of the comments made by my colleague the member for York Mills, it is obvious that opted-out doctors know nothing about expertise or excellence?

What is he to think when he turns on TV and sees the Premier of this province talking like that about one of the world's best physicians?

I would have hoped that the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) would have had a quiet word with his Premier yesterday and told him the last thing this situation needs is that sort of vindictiveness and obvious intellectual elitism from someone who should be the last to practise it with regard to the very fine doctors of this province.

It is not bad work for one year: attacks on our doctors; attacks on our lawyers; disagreements with our police chiefs and our municipalities; significant tax increases; an increased deficit; loss of our credit rating; cancellation of youth employment programs; dumping our urban transportation leadership; abandoning the women in the public service; underfunding universities; creating a crisis in the hospital sector; threatening the safety of our communities through the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores, and selling out the tenants of this province.

That spirit of change the people of this province wanted a year ago is still out there wanting. Where are the issues that matter to the individual Ontarian? Where are the issues that matter to the average person living in downtown Toronto, Brockville or Chatham? What is new in the throne speech for the people who are looking to buy a first home or to be able to afford their apartment unit; for the single parent and the young graduate? How will the throne speech change life for any one of those people? Where is the support for the handicapped and disabled? Where is the action for creating low-cost and moderate-cost housing? I say to the Treasurer, we will watch to see where the action is for the tobacco farmers of Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant, Oxford and Elgin.

There is not a single new job creation program; not a single new program in the Treasurer's budget; nothing for the older laid-off workers; nothing for the young people of this province. There is nothing there.

This government had 42 years to write a throne speech. It has had one year in office and it has used that year to pick through the BILD program, Enterprise Ontario, the previous throne speech and campaign documents of the Progressive Conservative Party. From those four sources, it has put together old programs, existing programs and old ideas; nothing new. The Liberals went to their own cupboard and it was bare.

It is sad. It gives us on this side some political hope. However, we would trade that for the

opportunity to have seen any sense of anything new in the throne speech. As I said at the start of my remarks, on April 22 we had an opportunity to look into the heart and soul of this government. We had an opportunity to see what the real David Peterson thinks of us, what his ideas are, his sense of the trials and tribulations being faced by young, visible minority persons in the heart of Metropolitan Toronto, scraping and hoping to get a job somewhere. We had a chance to see how he identifies with the laid-off steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie.

We had a chance to see how the Premier relates to and understands the concerns of various young people in smaller and single-industry communities throughout northern Ontario. Let us be honest, they were not looking for the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine). Let us be serious. They were looking for the Premier to offer a sense of hope for the future. They got nothing. The Premier had an opportunity to send a message to those people: to tell them he understood their fears, to tell them he offered some hope, whether for women in the public service or women in the private sector seeking expansion of day care opportunities, a young person seeking new training opportunities or a member of a visible minority seeking a first job out there.

4:40 p.m.

The Premier had a chance to identify with those people. He had a chance to take the hand of the unemployed auto worker. He had a chance to walk down the streets of Hamilton with the steelworkers and say: "I know it is tough out here. I know these changes are causing all sorts of layoffs and the transformation is wreaking havoc in your lives. But I have a sensible, practical plan, a combination of short-term projects, long-term research projects and medium-term training projects. I have some new opportunities for you. I have some ideas with regard to how we can take advantage of"—may I say it?—"freer trade opportunities. I have some ideas about how we can expand the service sector. I know how we can retrain you, even though you are 48 years old, and I am prepared to commit money to it."

I know he had an opportunity too in the throne speech to say to the women of this province that he meant what he said when he signed the accord with the New Democrats offering to do something real about equal pay.

But the Premier, left on his own, failed all those tests. He said to those people, "I am here now." He reflected, I think, what he has now

come to believe, that on May 2, 1985, he got more seats than the Tories. He did not. I think he believes he got a big, overwhelming mandate, as Brian Mulroney did. He did not. I think he believes that style can replace substance in the long term.

I think he believes that once he lucked in through a series of events that even he had not foreseen, as he has himself admitted, now that he is there, he does not have to worry about those people in downtown Hamilton, those people on Brunswick Avenue in my riding, the people in Pembroke and Arnprior and, yes, the people in Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury—all those people who have reflected a desire for change, for the breath of fresh air the Premier always likes to talk about but has been unable to deliver since the member for York South breathed it into his ear. All those people look at the throne speech and say, "There is nothing new, nothing there."

The sad reality is that after one year in office, this government came forward with no new programs, just rehashes of old programs; that this government, when it had an opportunity to express a sense of commitment, caring and passion and a little bit of heart, failed.

It has become a rudderless government that knows it is in power—boy, it really knows that. Watch the Premier in this House every day; he knows he is in power. But he knows too, through this throne speech, that the government has little else. It knows it is in power, but it does not know why. It knows it has no priorities, except figuring out how to stay in office and how to jettison the footmen over here. That insensitivity, that "Who cares?" attitude with regard to the throne speech and the thousands of unemployed people in

Ontario, leads us to move that the motion be amended by adding the following thereto—

Mr. McClellan: Let us have that election.

Mr. Grossman: Stop sweating. You have given it away.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: As someone who is still free to do what his conscience tells him to do in this House, I will move an amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Grossman moves that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by the addition of the following words:

"This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to address the most serious problems facing Ontario today, reflecting a total lack of government initiative, leadership and policy necessary to resolve these concerns, namely:

"The continuing unemployment crisis, particularly among this province's youth; the urgent need for affordable housing in this province; the preservation of Ontario's health, social and education sectors, and particularly support for hospitals, day care, services for the elderly and post-secondary institutions; the continuing problems facing farmers during these recessionary times.

"Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in the government."

On motion by Mr. McClellan, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Thursday, May 1, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 1, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Sheppard: Last Friday the federal Minister of State for Mines, the Honourable Robert Layton, made an announcement concerning the siting of low-level, radioactive waste disposal facilities near the town of Port Hope. I am deeply concerned about the implication of establishing such a facility so close to the shores of Lake Ontario.

Eldorado Resources has proposed the establishment of a low-level radioactive waste dump at Wesleyville, which is very close to Lake Ontario. In the past, citizens of the area and officials from all levels of government have opposed this location as the site for the disposal facility, mainly because of its proximity to a water body that supplies drinking water to the majority of the people of southern Ontario.

In addition to the risk of contamination of this water supply, siting a low-level radioactive waste dump in this area could pose a threat to the health of local citizens. It is a well-known fact that the federal government is looking for a national disposal site for low-level radioactive waste. Residents of the Port Hope area fear that establishing the Eldorado dump in the township could prove to be the thin edge of the wedge towards the creation of this national dump in that area.

Our Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) should provide strong leadership to promote the removal of the waste to a remote location. He should get involved now, before it is too late, and do his utmost to protect the people of the Port Hope area.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. There are too many private conversations.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Yesterday the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) indicated that the ministry would be hiring additional inspectors. My understanding is that when it has finished hiring a number of inspectors to enhance its team, there

will be 235, which is 11 under what it was at one time, when it was 246. There are going to be fewer inspectors than there were previously; yet it is going to be an improved program.

Second, when we were doing our tour, the ministry inspectors were instructed not to come forward to talk to the member for Sudbury East. I am not sure why, but that was the instruction sent out by the ministry. I am surprised by that.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union has indicated to me that at present 80,000 to 120,000 companies have yet to be registered with the ministry for inspection purposes. Of that group, 63 per cent of the companies that are represented by labour have health and safety committees. Only 32 per cent of companies without a union have a health and safety committee.

When is this ministry going to get serious and say to the companies that do not have a health and safety committee, "You are fined on the spot," as it does when somebody in the construction industry, for example, is caught without a helmet? When is the minister going to get tough? Having 11 fewer inspectors is not going to do it.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. McClellan: Let the record show the minister refuses to answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

VILLA COLOMBO

Mr. Cordiano: The year 1986 marks the 10th anniversary of Villa Colombo. This week the Villa, as it is affectionately known, will begin to hold a number of events in commemoration of the last 10 years. The Villa has served the Italian-Canadian community as a home for the aged and in many other capacities as well. In addition, to touch on some of those, the Villa has really acted as a focal point for the community in bringing together people from all walks of life.

Villa Colombo, as an important cultural and social institution, has spawned quite a renaissance in the Italian-Canadian community. It has made all Canadians of Italian origin very proud indeed. I understand that His Excellency the President of Italy will be visiting the Villa some time this summer to help in the celebrations. As

well, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) will be attending to place a cornerstone to mark the 10th anniversary.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Gordon: I would like to jog the memory of this Liberal government about what it has not done for the Sudbury region in this past 10 months.

We have been battered by a winter of 14 to 15 per cent unemployment. We have 3,000 people on welfare. Two thirds of those people are employable. People between the ages of 25 and 45 cannot find work. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) were informed last August of the grief and hardship that Sudbury region would experience. On numerous occasions, regional officials have met with them. In October they met with them and told them what was needed. As far as short-term jobs go, we got zero. For long-term jobs, despite an announcement of \$5 million last December, a cheque to hire a co-ordinator and open an office has just arrived, six months later.

Where are the new ideas and the programs to meet the needs of the unemployed in Sudbury region? They are just not there.

The people of Sault Ste. Marie now are faced with the same dire predicament as the people of Sudbury region have faced. Why does the government not be honest and up front with these people and tell them that it does not have any new ideas and it does not have any program? Why does it not quit hiding behind these shameful, endless meetings and get down to creating some new programs for the Sault? Why does it not give those people a break?

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Foulds: I rise with a sense of anger and frustration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first May Day. I have anger and frustration because today, of all days, the Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant in Thunder Bay is closing. Great Lakes Forest Products has taken a crass corporate decision to get out of producing waferboard, knowing full well the markets are there and yet throwing 150 workers out of work.

In April alone, more than 3,500 potential layoffs affecting northern Ontario alone were announced. The time for government action is now.

First, the government should immediately introduce legislation to allow the imposition of a

one-year moratorium on plant closures like the one at the waferboard plant at Thunder Bay and the massive layoffs facing the rest of northern Ontario.

Second, the government should introduce legislation to compel companies to open their books both to workers and to this Legislature when closures are contemplated.

Third, having allowed corporations to earn capital from our northern resources, the government must ask this Legislature for the power and authority to have some say in the direction and investment of that capital. Capital earned in the north should be reinvested in the north. It is time this provincial government enabled our workers in our northern communities to take charge of their own economic destiny. The time for begging is over. We need tough legislative action now.

2:10 p.m.

FARM CHEMICAL LOSSES

Mr. McGuigan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to mention stolen farm chemicals at this time of year. Recently, there has been a series of inventory losses and break-ins at farm chemical supply depots in southwestern Ontario, resulting in losses as high as \$100,000 this season. These break-ins are currently being investigated by the Ontario Provincial Police.

I suggest that farmers deal with reputable vendors or request unknown vendors to present their credentials and that they be especially careful of cash sales. Farmer members of this Legislature are well aware of the high cost of farm chemicals and they know that the increased costs of insurance add to the production costs of the farmer. Farmer members are also aware that it is very timely that these materials be on hand. If these thefts and losses of product continue, we may find these products are not available in the depots.

RECYCLING

Mr. Andrewes: I wish to raise with the House a matter of some concern, which is in your jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker. This is the matter of the refreshments supplied to members in the west lobby and, I assume, in the east lobby. Tea, coffee and apple juice are available for members and were formerly supplied to them in reusable, recyclable china cups and saucers. We now find that those drinks are only available in styrofoam and plastic containers. I am sure you will want to

correct this flagrant violation of the four Rs of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley).

VISITOR

Mr. Harris: I rise in my place to ask—

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order or a point of privilege?

Mr. Harris: On a point of worthwhile information for the Legislature. I know, Mr. Speaker, you would like to have all of us welcome the agent general for Ontario, Tom Wells, who is in your gallery. We welcome him back to the Legislature. I thought that you and all parties would want to recognize his presence here today.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I want to join with the spokesman for the official opposition in adding my voice of welcome to Thomas L. Wells, the government's agent general in London. I feel it is particularly appropriate during this first week of the new rules to recall that it was when he was government House leader that the background work involved in the development of the new rules was undertaken. All the advantages as well as all the disadvantages of these rules may be attributed to him.

I understand a bill is going to be presented this afternoon dealing with French-language services, which will be of special interest to him. We all know that his statements in this House and in the community at large were always supportive of initiatives of this type.

Mr. Martel: I join my friends in paying tribute to our former colleague. He is better served today than are his colleagues to my right. Things have changed rather significantly since he left, as he may have noted. I note the former minister is wearing a red tie. I do not know whether there is any significance in that.

I hate to say I am still on the same side of the House. As my friend the government House leader has just said, the rules have changed. We have grown up in Ontario. Now we can get rid of night sittings because the members know how to look after themselves. The new government has agreed with us that after 6:30 p.m. we are still safe without being in Queen's Park. Some of my Tory friends of old used to think we could not take care of ourselves at night. We have managed to survive this long this week. I do not know what next week holds for us at night.

An. hon. member: Baseball games.

Mr. Martel: I hope we will not get in too much trouble. We will get to the odd baseball game.

I join with my friends in welcoming back the former minister. We had many an interesting occasion together. The only thing I can think about is the number of times we have put off changing the rules with my friend. I do not know whether he could ever have mustered enough strength over in that motley group to get some cohesion about what we wanted to do, but the rules are changed. We welcome Mr. Wells back and we hope he is enjoying himself in England.

Mr. Speaker: I was wondering when I was listening whether things have changed. I see the members have now found a way to extend the time for members' statements. It is nice to see Mr. Wells here today.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: C'est pour moi un honneur de présenter à l'Assemblée législative le projet de loi sur les services en français, qui donnera la possibilité au gouvernement de l'Ontario de répondre aux besoins et aux attentes de la population francophone de notre province.

Ce projet de loi propose plusieurs mesures importantes qui visent à donner, pour la première fois, un cadre juridique à la politique des affaires francophones et à établir une approche plus logique et plus cohérente dans les domaines du développement et de la prestation des services en français du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

Over the years, a wide range of French-language services have been developed by the ministries, according to a government policy which began in 1968. During that period of 18 years, considerable progress has been made to ensure that francophones receive the services to which they are entitled in their own language, but much more needs to be done.

Our province has a special responsibility in this regard because Ontario is home to the largest group of French-speaking Canadians outside Quebec. It is for that reason the government of Ontario intends to guarantee through legislation the rights of francophones to receive government services in French.

The various measures contained in this bill are inspired by the basic principles of justice and equality which we value so highly in this province. These are the two fundamental principles on which our country has been built by the two founding peoples. The government of Ontario believes it is now appropriate that this reality and this duality should be reflected in the operations of all ministries.

Ce projet de loi vise à consolider les acquis des francophones de notre province et à donner une impulsion nouvelle à la politique du gouvernement de l'Ontario à l'égard de la prestation des services en français.

Le projet de loi prévoit l'adoption de garanties législatives qui auront pour effet de reconnaître le droit à recevoir des services en français dans les régions désignées de la province, et il établit un échéancier précis quant à l'entrée en vigueur de ces garanties législatives. Enfin, le projet de loi permettra aussi de procéder à une modification des structures administratives qui sont chargées des affaires francophones.

La Commission des services en français, qui sera créée par l'adoption de ce projet de loi, aura le mandat de déterminer l'état de disponibilité et la qualité des services actuels, de recommander la création de nouveaux services et, enfin, de recommander des modifications aux plans de mise en oeuvre des services en français des ministères et de les publier.

This government believes the era of struggles, confrontation and concession between Ontario's francophone community and the provincial government should be replaced by an era of justice, equity, clarity and understanding.

In closing, let me emphasize that the bill on French-language services has been drafted after extensive consultations I have had with leaders of the francophone community in Ontario.

Je suis profondément convaincu que les dispositions de ce projet de loi répondront aux besoins des francophones de l'Ontario et contribueront à ce qu'ils bénéficient, dans leur propre langue, de services gouvernementaux d'une qualité égale à celle dont bénéficient leurs concitoyens anglophones.

Mr. Guindon: I would like to respond to the statement by the minister responsible for francophone affairs. I take exception to the last paragraph on page 3 where it says the government believes the era of struggles and confrontation is in the past. It was our government that started, I believe in 1968, the translation of the Statutes of Ontario. Any merit the francophones have in this province at present is due to the Conservative Party.

In section 7, the bill states, "The obligations of government agencies and institutions of the Legislature under this act are subject to such limits as circumstances make reasonable and necessary, if all reasonable measures and plans for compliance with this act have been taken or made." My hasty reading of this bill is that it is

not worth much more than the paper it is written on.

Il me fait plaisir de commenter le projet de loi et je dois vous dire que le projet de loi n'est pas tout à fait comme j'avais cru le voir aujourd'hui. Je dois vous dire que dans le projet de loi, si ça prend cinq ans à déterminer ce qu'on va faire et un autre cinq ans à déterminer comment on va l'implanter, je vous assure qu'il ne restera plus beaucoup de francophones, surtout dans l'âge d'or, les aînés en Ontario, qui auront besoin de services en français. Il n'y aura plus personne parmi les gens de l'âge d'or, pour recevoir les services en français.

Je dois aussi dire que je suis désolé que le ministre n'a pas vu le besoin d'inclure dans sa loi les centres psychiatriques et psychologiques. Parce que je dois dire que ce ne sera pas dans cinq ans ou dans dix ans qu'un jeune, à l'école, aura besoin de soins psychiatriques, mais aujourd'hui. Je trouve cela déplorable et je dois dire que s'il y a des francophones, en Ontario, qui ont besoin de services médicaux en français et qui ont besoin d'un centre médical, c'est à Thunder Bay et c'est maintenant qu'ils en ont besoin. Dans 10 ans, il n'y aura plus personne qui aura besoin de ces services-là. Pour le moment, je vais terminer là.

M. Rae: J'aimerais répondre au discours du ministre en disant que oui, nous faisons des progrès dans la province et que franchement, je parle non seulement comme député de mon parti et comme chef de mon parti, mais comme une personne qui vient d'Ottawa. Je me souviens de l'époque où la ville de Vanier était la ville d'Eastview et qu'on avait des relations vraiment mauvaises entre les communautés. Je me souviens avoir vu, étant enfant, des changements à Ottawa, ma ville natale. On a vu changer le pays pendant les 20 années qui ont suivi les événements fédéraux. Nous avons vu des changements constitutionnels et maintenant, nous voyons les premiers progrès dans la province. C'est dans cet esprit que j'exprime notre appui pour la notion d'une loi-cadre concernant les services en français de notre province.

Toutefois, je dis au ministre que nous avons quelques problèmes, problèmes assez importants, avec le projet de loi. Il a exclu les services des établissements psychiatriques. Franchement, je ne comprends pas comment il aurait pu faire cela quand on se rend compte que c'est exactement dans le domaine de la santé mentale que nous avons peut-être les problèmes les plus profonds dans les services sociaux de la province, concernant les services en français.

Si on va dans le Nord et dans l'Est de la province, on y voit des problèmes. Alors, il y a le problème des exclusions, d'abord. Deuxièmement, il y a un délai de trois ans. Je crois que je parle pour notre caucus en général lorsque je dis que nous allons proposer des amendements pour améliorer la situation et pour confirmer que nous ferons encore des progrès.

Je veux profiter de cette occasion pour dire à la Chambre, encore une fois, que dans notre parti, nous croyons qu'il s'agit seulement du premier pas et que l'objectif reste toujours l'enchâssement constitutionnel des droits minoritaires francophones dans la Constitution du Canada et dans la Constitution de l'Ontario, concernant les francophones de l'Ontario.

Je dis au ministre que nous allons continuer, dans notre parti, non pour faire de cette question une affaire partisane, parce que c'est beaucoup trop important pour que cela se passe, mais que nous allons travailler, oui, avec le Parti progressiste-conservateur, oui, avec le chef conservateur, oui, avec le premier ministre (M. Peterson) de notre province pour nous assurer que nous profitons vraiment de toutes les opportunités qui existent dans ce cas, en ce qui concerne les francophones.

Je veux ajouter, finalement, comme je l'ai dit au premier ministre à plusieurs occasions, que nous sommes prêts à travailler ensemble, avec lui, pour nous assurer que cela se passe. Nous allons travailler avec le gouvernement pour nous assurer que nous profitons de toutes les opportunités se rapportant à la réforme constitutionnelle, y compris la province de Québec.

Il nous reste des choses à faire pour garantir que l'égalité entre les deux peuples fondateurs reste quelque chose de réel et de vivant dans notre province. Mais nous devons dire qu'enfin, nous avons une loi sur laquelle nous pouvons tous travailler, et je dis au Parti progressiste-conservateur que nous sommes prêts à travailler avec eux et avec nos confrères du Parti libéral pour nous assurer que nous aurons des changements et des amendements au projet de loi qui feront une meilleure loi que celle que le ministre nous a présentée.

HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am pleased to inform the members of this House that, effective today, Russell H. Ramsay has been appointed to a three-year term as the new chairman of the Health Disciplines Board and as chairman of the Denture Therapists Appeal Board. Both boards

have been without a chairman since last June, when Hugh Mackenzie resigned from the posts.

Mr. Ramsay's distinguished record of public service makes him particularly well qualified to serve on these boards. He was well known as a public-spirited individual in his native Sault Ste. Marie prior to his election to the Legislature in 1978 as the member for that riding. He was subsequently re-elected in 1981 and has served this province as Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and as Minister of Labour.

The Health Disciplines Board, which was set up in 1974, is charged with the important task of reviewing decisions of the complaints committees of the five colleges that govern dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry and pharmacy. It conducts its reviews when either a patient or the professional involved has not been satisfied by the decision of a college's complaints committee. Similarly, the Denture Therapists Appeal Board, which was formed in 1975, reviews decisions on complaints against denture therapists.

In addition, the Health Disciplines Board may review proposed decisions of the registration committees of the colleges in cases where a committee proposes to refuse registration to an applicant, revoke the registration of a member or attach conditions to an existing licence. Such reviews are conducted at the request of applicants or members.

Both boards are composed of lay people who are not provincial public servants and who are not, and never have been, licensed health care professionals. These boards provide an important service to the people of Ontario, and I am confident they will continue to play an important role under Mr. Ramsay's competent leadership.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Lincoln.

Mr. Andrewes: I would like to congratulate the Minister of Health on his good judgement in the selection of Russell Ramsay to serve on the Health Disciplines Board. In his statement, the minister alluded to Mr. Ramsay's record of service to this House and to the people of Sault Ste. Marie. That record has been exemplary and speaks for itself.

Russell Ramsay was one of those individuals who did not mind putting in long hours. His long hours stretched from roughly 6:30 in the morning until well into the late hours of the evening. They were spent working diligently, particularly in his job of Minister of Labour, and this province is the better for it.

Those who wished to abuse Mr. Ramsay's time were often dealt with in a curt and short way

by being invited to his office at some ungodly hour, such as 6:45 for an early morning meeting. Mr. Ramsay's ability to run committees will stand him well in this job. Those of us who have had the privilege of serving under him as members of committees know he enjoys keeping a committee on schedule in reaching decisions expeditiously and fairly.

Mr. Rae: With regard to the announcement by the Minister of Health, I will be generous and indicate that we were consulted with respect to this appointment. We were consulted with respect to the individual involved and the timing of the announcement, as was the Conservative Party with respect to the announcements made yesterday and today. That should clarify the matter. All three parties were agreed not only as to the individuals who should be named but also as to the timing of the announcements. In that spirit, we congratulate Mr. Ramsay on his appointment.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I was so taken with the previous statement that I almost forgot one of my own.

Mr. Speaker: I gather the Treasurer is asking permission to revert to ministerial statements.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Agreed to.

BUDGET DATE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I would like to advise the House that I intend to present the 1986 budget on Tuesday, May 13, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Minister of Health. If he is truly concerned about clear and open access to the health care system for every resident of this province, and in particular for the residents of northern Ontario, will he tell us why the sick and poor people of northern Ontario who do not have \$300 readily available to them are going to the welfare offices for payment of medical travel costs that the government is supposed to be paying?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable member knows full well that we pay costs for medically necessary travel to people who have to travel extraordinary distances. There are mechanisms in place to assist those who otherwise have difficulty in paying travel costs, and they are

following along in line with receiving assistance from those other social networks.

Mr. Pope: Unfortunately, that answer is not exactly accurate. Many northern Ontario residents are going to welfare offices across north-eastern Ontario because this government will not give them financial support for their medical travel costs. The minister is failing to reimburse those welfare offices; he is not honouring the assignments. The welfare offices no longer are going to accept those assignments—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Pope: —nor are they going to operate under his system, which he has not reviewed at all. What is he going to do to improve it?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It would be of great assistance if the honourable gentleman provided details of those items. We are in the process of reviewing any problems that have developed with respect to implementing the program to reimburse the people of northern Ontario for medically necessary travel. I shall be pleased to receive details so we can include them in our analysis of how the program might be improved.

Mr. Pope: Unfortunately, that answer also is not accurate. There has been no review of this process. Neither the ministry nor anyone in the minister's office has contacted any welfare administrator; none. There has been no contact—just a form letter from the Ontario health insurance plan office in Kingston, dated April 7, which said it had not yet made a decision on assignments. In the meantime, the poor people who cannot afford to travel south for medically necessary treatment are being hard done by. They are written out of the system by a conscious decision that we warned the minister about on November 27.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Pope: When is he going to do his job and make sure this system operates to help the people?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have undertaken, and are continuing, to review the workings of this mechanism. The member for Cochrane South recognizes that we continually review how these programs work. He knows that. Other people know we are making considerable efforts to look at any problems that may have arisen. The Ministry of Health is concerned that these mechanisms work well. I hope the honourable gentlemen will provide me with specific details that will help us to get on with that job.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: My question also is for the auxiliary Minister of Health. Given the climate of disruption—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member should be a little more condescending.

Mr. Grossman: We will send the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) into negotiations.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: He has such a delicate touch, I am surprised they did not send him in already.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member should be a little more condescending; let us see whether he can be a little more condescending.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Minister of the Environment please control himself.

Mr. Grossman: Given the climate of chaos and disruption that is developing quickly in the health care system and at least is contributing to the exodus of doctors from this province, is the Minister of Health today prepared to undertake that the government will pay the costs for any patient who needs to travel to the United States to get the services of a doctor who formerly practised in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We will reimburse the patients for their costs on a formula basis with respect to services they can get only in the US. If those services are available in Ontario, we will not reimburse patients; we hope people will use the services provided in our province.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Grossman: The minister is saying the government will not fully reimburse patients who have to travel to the US to see the same doctors they used to see in Ontario prior to time this government came into office. How can he hold out to the public of Ontario that the system is as accessible as it used to be, given that some of the world's best surgeons will be in the United States and inaccessible to Ontario residents unless they pay money from their pockets for travel and medical bills in the US?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The system in place now was implemented under the auspices of that member, when he was Minister of Health, and others. It was concluded that when the case requires it, we will pay 100 per cent of the standard ward charges and the usual and customary fees charged by surgeons for people travelling to gain medical procedures that can be provided only in those other jurisdictions.

The member knows this full well. His government decided not to pay for travel, and our government has not changed that policy. However, there are mechanisms that when emergency procedures are required, ambulances are available to take patients to those medically necessary services. We have not changed that policy. When services are available in Ontario, it is our expectation that the patients will use them.

Mr. Grossman: The minister makes quite a virtue of the fact he has not changed the policy. Having looked at the throne speech in some depth, we agree the government has not changed very many policies at all. Because of the handling of it by this government, many doctors who used to practise in Ontario will be available to their Ontario patients only when the patients have paid travel and other costs to get access to them in Dallas, Fort Worth and Phoenix. Will the minister undertake to change that policy?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think the honourable gentleman knows full well that for the past several years—in fact, for a long time—there has been a movement of physicians out of and back into Ontario. He knows full well the result of immigration and emigration has been that we have received a net increase in physicians coming to practise medicine in this province. He also knows we have never paid for patients to follow any of the doctors to their destinations in the United States, the United Kingdom or other places they choose to practise.

I do not choose to put restrictions on where doctors travel. I cannot do that and I prefer not to do that. It is our expectation that we will have a bountiful supply of services here to meet the medical needs of the people in Ontario. Where there is no service for the patients available in this province, we will implement the mechanisms to reimburse them for procedures out of the province.

Mr. Davis: The government chased them out.

Mr. Grossman: The government will drive them out and tell patients to pay out of their own pockets.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: I think history will show that the only exodus taking place at the moment is out of the Tory caucus.

Mr. Callahan: That is right.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr. Rae: I think the hippo has been stung; the dinosaur has just moved over.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health a question. In his final answer to me yesterday—this level of sensitivity is almost unheard of.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will wait until it is possible to hear what is being said. I can wait; it is your time.

Mr. Callahan: Start it off the same way, Bob.

Mr. Rae: No, I will be a good boy this time.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: I am quoting the minister: "For those patients who feel that there are problems, they ought to go directly to their physician. They can go to their physician, as they have been told. They can come to me and I will do my best as well to intercede for those people."

I wonder whether the minister would not recognize that is simply a repeated invocation of the same spirit of charity medicine that has been so decisively rejected by the people of Ontario. Can the minister stand in his place today and tell us the steps he is going to take to ensure that patients do not suffer as a result of the government's inability to grasp the nettle and bring a bill to this Legislature to end extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have to disagree with the honourable gentleman. He obviously does not understand the essence of the bill that has been the mechanism under which we will end that practice. We have to work under the system we have to deal with at this time. He knows in a democratic process we have certain things available to us, and I am prepared to do my best to work under that mechanism. I can tell the member, others here in this House and the public that we are working through Bill 94 to bring an end to extra billing and that we intend to pursue that.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister aware that yesterday in Welland at a meeting attended by his parliamentary assistant and by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) from our party, in response to a question, his parliamentary assistant said extra billing would be ended in the province in six weeks? Is that the case, and can the minister give that assurance to the people of this province today?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have been dealing with this matter through negotiations, and it has been honestly reported through the media and other places that we have made progress. It is unusual to be able to give the precise date—as the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said, there is no precise date—but

it is not unusual to anticipate that progress will be made several weeks hence.

I can tell the people we are working very sincerely and directly towards putting together a package that will accomplish those items. Upon passage of the bill, I am sure all people will realize that our position is firm, clear and direct towards ending extra billing.

Mr. Rae: Since the minister has so clearly and decisively rejected the commitment made by his parliamentary assistant, is he in a position today to explain why the patients of this province should suffer as a result of the government's refusal to act? Why should delay be the friend of extra billing? Why should it be allowed to continue when the means are there for the government to move and it has failed to move?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are moving as a government should in this jurisdiction and in this forum. We introduced a bill on December 19 and we have brought that bill forward. It has received second reading in this House and it is now before a committee. We are using the mechanisms available to this party and this government.

In addition to the legislative mechanism available in a democracy, there is the ability to talk, consult and work together constructively with such people as the Ontario Medical Association members to negotiate a way that may bring this problem to a conclusion. The democratic process is well served by this government and it is well served by the proper forward movement of the policy we are pursuing.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Reville: My question is for the Minister of Housing. There is another exodus which is more serious, and that is the exodus of affordable housing from this province. Since 1981, 8,700 units have been lost in Toronto alone, 629 go on the block tonight and about 2,700 more will be lined up for tomorrow. This crisis did not happen overnight.

Can the minister justify to this House his failure to act to protect the tenants of Ontario, or does he somehow feel this brinkmanship is in the interests of tenants?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The reason we are not announcing a position we are taking is not a matter of delay. It is a matter of discussing it with my colleagues. In a very short time I will be making a statement here that will take care of the member's concern.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Reville: It is the discussion that concerns me. Let me quote today's Toronto Star: "A

freeze...has been put on hold, apparently because of internal bickering in the...cabinet." Those bickering most are the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). Apparently, the Treasurer told a Toronto alderman they were all nuts to be concerned about this problem.

Will the minister tell the House if he has dropped the ball, if he has been bushwacked, or if he wants to refer the question?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I will not refer the question, as the member requests. This is a very serious and sensitive issue. It is an issue that would take the wisdom of Solomon to solve immediately.

An hon. member: Or a Liberal government.

Hon. Mr. Curling: That is right. We do not have a Solomon in one person in our cabinet, but we have many men and women with such skills.

Mr. Breagh: Name names.

Mr. Davis: How about a minister?

Mr. Grossman: Roll the tape.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Curling: There is no one individual who has the ultimate solution, but we have in our cabinet men with such knowledge and legal brilliance, as our Attorney General, with whom I consult. We have such sensitive, socially conscious members as the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro), with whom I also consult. I could go on with the talented people—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: No, no. We want to hear. We have lots of time.

Mr. Speaker: Lots of time? I wish you would all show a little heart, the way the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) does.

Mr. Reville: Tenant leaders, whose participation in the Rent Review Advisory Committee the minister has lauded as historic, say they will not support the new rent review policy they helped to develop in the absence of controls on condo conversions, demolition and co-ownership schemes. Is the minister now abandoning the tenant leaders, or is he going to leave the door open just long enough to let Bretton Place escape as a favour to cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thought it was the practice to assess and make sure one knows where he is jumping and what he is doing before he acts. We do not intend to make any statement in this House unless we are very serious about it, and are backed by good legislation. The anxiety that is shown by the tenants and all those who are

concerned is understandable. It is understandable because of the accumulated neglect that happened here, and they expect decisive decisions now.

Mr. Gordon: Since it is obvious the condominium conversion bill is not going to come in today, can the minister tell us whose right he is going to protect? Is he going to protect the right of the tenants to have affordable housing, or is he going to protect the right of an individual to own property?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I am not at all surprised that member would ask me that question. This government is sensitive to all and fair to all, not to one side or the other side. That is why I take that side.

Mr. Gordon: I think the Housing critics and the House have been quite fair to the minister, given that he has not answered any of the questions we have asked him in 10 months. Is it not true that the assured housing policy he announced with such fanfare late last year is now beginning to crumble and that he does not have the influence to push affordable housing through the cabinet at present?

Hon. Mr. Curling: If the 600 or 700 social housing units approved under this government is a crumbling housing policy, I do not know what the member is calling crumbling. More social housing will be built over three years than his party did. We are committed to our program and we know it will be successful.

Mr. Reville: Surely the minister realizes that government policy must not only be right, but it must also be timely. Will he pick up the phone today and call Toronto city council and ask it to postpone its hearing on Bretton Place while he gets his act together?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thought my friend would know that we do not govern by my taking up the phone to make legislation there. We are coming out with a statement that will address not only Bretton Place, but also all the other issues and concerns we have that we are losing affordable rental units.

Mr. Reville: I remind the minister that the municipal politicians did not have any concern about picking up the phone and calling him and asking him to hold off with his policy. Does he not realize that while he dithers around trying to sort out power structures within the cabinet, tenants are having extreme anxiety all across this province?

Hon. Mr. Curling: There is no dithering around at all. Consultation may be seen as

dithering by the member. It is a way in which we can get out a very comprehensive and a very fair policy. There is no dithering at all. I know how anxious he is. I ask him to be patient and we will address those concerns.

HOUSING POLICY

Mr. Gordon: I have another question for the Minister of Housing. In the calculation of capital improvements by the landlord, how will sweat equity be factored in?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I am glad the member seems to have got around to reading the report from the tenants and landlords. He can also join the committee. He can come to the committee and put his concerns to it, and we can answer all those questions. He will have all his time there to address that.

Mr. Gordon: A member raised the whole question of elderly women from Sherwood Avenue, who are being evicted because their units are being renovated from within—and they are really being demolished from within—and who have nowhere to go. This week in this House the minister made some very strong statements, indicating he was going to bring in legislation to cover condominium conversions, co-ownership and demolition.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Gordon: When is he going to get down to the business of housing in this province?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thought the member was awake. We got down to the business of housing a long time ago. On December 16, we announced one of the most comprehensive housing policies. If my dear critic was asleep at the switch, I draw his attention to that policy. We got down to a housing policy when we announced and approved 600 or 700 social housing units in Ontario. We are down to business in housing, not like in the past when his government was making many deals with individuals.

3 p.m.

Mr. Gordon: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, that kind of accusation thrown out in this House about making deals with certain individuals is very serious. I ask that the minister either withdraw that statement or explain it.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; I did not hear the member say that. Did the minister accuse someone of making a deal?

An honourable member: Yes, he did.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He said there were deals made.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Read Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will look at Hansard.

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

M. Rae: J'ai une question pour le ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones. J'aimerais que le ministre nous explique pourquoi le projet de loi exclut-il les municipalités et les conseils locaux et peut-être le plus important, comme le ministre le sait très bien, les établissements psychiatriques. Est-ce qu'il peut expliquer de telles exclusions dans la loi?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je crois que le chef du troisième parti va repenser sa question dû au fait que présentement, les municipalités peuvent offrir des services en français ou en anglais. La Loi sur les municipalités prévoit de telles choses et on encourage les municipalités à passer leurs projets de loi et à tenir leurs réunions du Conseil en français. Présentement, les municipalités ont le droit d'offrir des services et même, je les encourage, non pas par ce projet de loi, mais par la loi qui existe présentement dans le Municipal Act, de continuer à se prévaloir des services et de les améliorer. En ce qui concerne les institutions psychiatriques je crois que mon collègue reconnaît la difficulté que nous avons présentement, dans le nord de l'Ontario, à avoir des psychiatres de langue anglaise; des anglophones pour servir le Nord de l'Ontario. Alors, je peux assurer mon collègue que les efforts de la Commission et les efforts de mon Office vont être à ce que des francophones soient formés dans des institutions, universités, aussi bien que dans les collèges, pour servir la province de l'Ontario et les francophones de la province de l'Ontario dans leur langue, une fois la formation de ces gens-là—

M. Rae: Est-ce que le ministre ne comprend pas exactement ce problème? Je crois que nous avons une différence de point de vue philosophique assez importante. Est-ce qu'il ne comprend pas que la reconnaissance des droits concernant les services psychiatriques, par le gouvernement et par cette Législature, exerce une pression encore plus importante afin que nous résolvions exactement ce problème de manque de services en français et à moins que nous ayons une garantie dans la loi, nous aurons toujours le délai et toujours le problème de manque de services, parce que c'est un problème qui remonte aux années 50, aux années 60 et aux années 70. On a présenté des rapports sur cette question et jusqu'ici, le problème n'a pas été résolu et je dis au ministre, aujourd'hui, que nous allons avoir une bagarre sur cette question parce que ça

représente une différence de point vue assez importante.

L'hon. M. Grandmaître: Je crois que je suis prêt pour la bagarre et puis les amendements que le chef du troisième parti veut apporter, je suis prêt à les écouter, même à l'encourager à développer d'autres façons de hâter ces services. Alors, je suis prêt à l'écouter et à apporter des amendements. Excepté que je dois assurer le chef du troisième parti que dans les districts désignés, on a droit à des services de psychiatre. Maintenant, ce ne sont pas tous les secteurs, tous les districts qui sont désignés, mais dans les secteurs désignés, vous pourrez vous prévaloir de services de psychiatres de langue française.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). I am concerned over comments made by the Agriculture and Food critic for the official opposition—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry; I cannot allow the member to address a question, because he is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Education has a response to a question placed previously by the member for Cochrane South.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Hon. Mr. Conway: The defeat and the divisions of York East weigh poorly on the official opposition.

Mr. Grossman: The minister used to be quicker than that.

Mr. Villeneuve: Where is the answer?

Hon. Mr. Conway: There is nothing more distracting than a Tory cacophony.

I would like to respond to a question raised Tuesday by the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) regarding the availability of speech pathology and related language services for students in northern Ontario and to his suggestion that an official in the Ministry of Education suggested in a telephone conversation of January 17, 1986, that a parent unhappy with the availability of such services move to southern Ontario.

I have spoken with the official in question, Don Werner of my ministry, and he has assured me most emphatically that he at no time made the statement attributed to him by Mrs. Grant.

My officials have again looked into the situation of Mrs. Grant's daughter, and they inform me that as of March 21, 1986, Shelly-Ann has been receiving and responding well to a

special program in accordance with the recommendation of the identification and placement review committee.

I also understand Mrs. Grant has been provided with the appropriate forms to be completed by the family's medical doctor that would allow the home care program of the Ministry of Health to consider what, if any, additional services might be provided.

On the question of the availability of speech pathology and related language services, I agree with the member for Cochrane South that this is a problem affecting many communities throughout Ontario, particularly in the north. I note, however, that significant progress has been made in providing these services through the implementation of Bill 82 and the efforts of home care programs within the Ministry of Health.

The solution to the shortage of speech pathology and related issues involves the training and education of more people in this field, again especially in the north. My ministry is continuing to work with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to address the need to provide additional training programs in this area.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Because of the length of the response, I am going to add a minute to the question period. I believe that should have been given during ministerial statements.

Mr. Gillies: The minister should know better than to rattle on.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Brantford should control himself.

Mr. Pope: I can assure the minister that Mr. Werner made those statements.

Second, it is not a question of filling out an application form. This child has been receiving speech therapy services from the Porcupine Health Unit in her preschool years. It is a question of translating that service into the special education setting for primary schools in northern Ontario.

Will the minister abide by memo 81, which was signed in the fall of 1984 by the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community and Social Services, and provide to the people of the north those services to which northern Ontario boys and girls have the right under law?

Hon. Mr. Conway: After a lengthy discussion with Don Werner, who assures me he had several conversations with Mrs. Grant, who indicated to Mr. Werner throughout those conversations that she felt satisfied with the advice provided, I can assure the honourable

member that Mrs. Grant's daughter at this moment is receiving the full program recommended by the IPRC. That is the reality, and I want the member and the House to know that.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Pope: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: That is not the reality. She is receiving special education—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of privilege.

An hon. member: Take another minute off.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate all the help; however, I will do it myself.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the minister who said, "Anyone who has problems with the health care system should come directly to Elston for help." It is for the Minister of Health.

Last year, the north was successful in attracting a second ophthalmologist to North Bay, with a third to be on the way. The decision for both of them to relocate in the north was premised on the ministry's promise to provide essential ophthalmology equipment to North Bay Civic Hospital. Can the minister explain why he has reneged on this commitment? Can he explain how his actions will improve accessibility in the north when instead of three ophthalmologists for North Bay, there shortly will be one?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will undertake to look into that question and report back to the honourable member. We have been pursuing means by which we can instruct people to improve equipment allocations to locations in the north. I do not know about this one in particular. I will get back to the member on that.

Mr. Harris: Since the minister does not know how he is going to do it, let me quote from a statement he made last year: "Capital and operating funds will also be made available to help equip facilities that the specialists will need...."

Can I also indicate—

Mr. Speaker: By way of supplementary.

Mr. Harris: —by way of supplementary to the minister, that the chairman of the North Bay Hospital Commission wrote to the minister last January requesting action. I wrote to the minister last February requesting action. It is not a new issue. He has had three or four months to look into the matter. I have read him the statement in which he said the money is there. Will he now provide the funds? Is he saying the program does not exist? That is what his ministry seems to be

saying. When can North Bay and Dr. Bullen expect even an acknowledgement of the January letter?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have told the member I will look into the particular question he raised about North Bay. I also told him that a program is being put in place with respect to it. I told the member I will report back to him, and I will report back to him in that respect.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Solicitor General, who told the House yesterday that a nuclear emergency plan for Pickering had been developed and was in place; however, there appear to be some serious flaws in the plan.

The plan seems to depend on local radio and cable stations and police vehicles with loud-speakers to alert the community in case of an emergency. However, no mechanism is in place to trigger people's attention to the fact that they should be tuning in to get instructions on what action to take.

As well, the plan has identified evacuation centres and routes to take to get to those evacuation centres, but nobody in the community is aware of those kinds of details. Will the minister ensure that a trigger mechanism, such as sirens, which are used in most emergency programs of this nature, is added to the plan? Will he also ensure that an educational—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member has asked the question.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I assure the honourable member that in the very near future he will be able to look at the complete details of the provincial nuclear emergency plan. He will find what I consider to be adequate means of informing the public. The means used in post-war years of sirens has not proven to be effective because of maintenance problems. We believe we have effective means of communicating the need for the implementation of such a plan to the public.

Mr. Charlton: I hope they are not all asleep, with the media outlets turned off, when the emergency occurs.

Apparently, the plan also calls for supplies of potassium iodide pills to be stored at fire stations and for firemen to hand deliver them door to door in the case of an emergency. As well, they obviously will be asked by the people in the community, "What is going on? Give us some details," as they are attempting to do that. The time required to accomplish that would be horrendous.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Charlton: Will the minister consider a plan where the pills will be distributed to all the households in the emergency plan areas along with instructions for their use and an educational package to inform people what they are supposed to do if an emergency arises?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: The matter of distribution of the potassium iodide pills has been debated at great length. It is felt that the free distribution of these pills might cause more panic than comfort among the citizenry. There is also the matter of the shelf life of the pills. The supplies are there, not only with the fire department but also with all the generating stations. The delivery is effectively carried out by people who are on duty 24 hours a day.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Colleges and Universities has a response to a question asked previously by the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson).

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Yesterday the member for Burlington South raised a matter with me concerning the posting of advertisements for the Ontario public service internship program within my ministry. I said in response that I would have my officials look into it on an emergency basis and if there were any element of unfairness, I would have the situation remedied immediately.

I did that and I found the honourable member was correct that the postings had not been advertised in every post-secondary institution in the province. I then took steps to delay the closing of the competition for two weeks and ensured that the positions would be advertised in all the institutions that had not received notice of the postings.

I note, however, that the member in his great concern for students has issued a press release stating that I as minister had rejected fairness as a matter for this competition and had categorically rejected leaving the competition open. I wonder whether the member, in the interest of fairness and to ensure that the students know the competition has been extended for two weeks, will be interested in issuing another press release.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to hear that the minister, although catching the selective invitations of the various ministers of this government, did not succumb to selective hearing and got to the bottom of the matter so quickly.

I still stand by the statement I made. Has the minister closed off or has he extended the competitions yesterday for three positions in the

Ministry of Correctional Services and one position in the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs? Will the minister specifically look into the postings by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), which I found particularly objectionable, given that the minister was able to circulate those closed competitions to his—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not responsible for posting the advertisements of competitions in other ministries. I rhetorically ask the member whether the press release he issued was issued before or after he asked the question. I encourage him to spread the word that the competition has been extended. In the interest of students, that is the only fair thing to do.

ABORTION CLINIC

Mr. O'Connor: I have a question for the Attorney General, who has recently created considerable public confusion by his conflicting statements on the crown's intention in the second Morgentaler trial. On the one hand, he indicated that the ministry and the government are prepared to proceed to prosecute Dr. Morgentaler on that second offence. On the other hand, he indicated in this House on one occasion that is not their policy. Can he clear up that situation and advise us once and for all what the government's policy is on this matter?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am grateful for the question and sorry the honourable member was confused by what had happened. I will do what I can to clarify that.

As he knows, each case that is listed at the general sessions or at the sittings of the court for trial is called either quarterly or biannually. That is so in the case of the second charge against Dr. Morgentaler. The first issue upon such call of case is whether the parties in the case are technically ready to proceed with it; that is, are equipped, have interviewed witnesses and have complied with all preliminary proceedings. We have indicated on a number of occasions that we have complied and are ready to proceed in that sense.

Mr. Justice Evans, former Chief Justice of the High Court, has ruled it would be useless to proceed with the second charge until the Supreme Court of Canada has decided the appeal in the first case. That ruling was confirmed by Associate Chief Justice Callaghan at the last sittings of the court. Of course, we submit entirely to those rulings.

Mr. O'Connor: By way of a supplementary, perhaps I could read from the transcript of the last court appearance. The senior crown attorney who handled the matter said to the court, "I would simply indicate for the record that the crown is prepared to proceed to a trial on this matter." Similarly, the Attorney General himself is quoted in the Toronto Star of April 8 as saying, "We are prepared to prosecute the second charges." He is also quoted as saying, "We were prepared to proceed with the charges at the time, but the judge would not permit it."

Would the Attorney General not agree that what has happened here is that he has attempted to satisfy both sides of this very contentious issue by telling them what they wanted to hear, but has got caught at it?

Hon. Mr. Scott: A selective reading of the transcript is not only not helpful, but it probably is not fair to any of the participants in the case. If my friend goes on, he will see in that transcript the Associate Chief Justice makes plain that to proceed in this circumstance would be absolutely useless. Crown counsel conceded that was so and indicated we would abide by the ruling of the court, as we have always done. As the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has said, we are ready to proceed when the courts indicate the case can be tried.

OVERTIME WORKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: Will the Minister of Labour tell this House what he is doing about the excessive amounts of overtime that are being worked at number two rod mill at Stelco in Hamilton. This is a matter that has been brought to his attention a number of times by the workers involved, by myself and, most recently, by a letter to his ministry on April 22.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am aware of the concerns raised by Local 1005 of the United Steelworkers. My friend has sent a letter to me indicating his concern over the response sent by the employment standards branch of the ministry to Local 1005 regarding the overtime worked at this part of Stelco. I too am not satisfied with that reply. I had a meeting with my staff today on this. Whether this is a matter of excessive overtime over and above the 100 hours that is allowed is another question. I do not think it is adequate to explain to the union that the solution to this allegation of excessive overtime is a task force. Those stand separately, one from the other.

Mr. Mackenzie: We cannot seem to move on plant shutdowns; surely we can move on overtime. Does the minister realize that in just three and a half months this one mill alone has

had more than 10,564 hours of overtime; that a number of employees have been working more than 100 hours above the regular work week in three and a half months; and that a worker who raised a grievance in that mill has been disciplined for refusing overtime?

Does the minister accept this kind of attitude on the part of the company? Is he prepared to deal with it, or is the committee he set up just an excuse for not dealing with it and not laying charges?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That last comment is just plain silly. I do not mind saying that. If we can, this government would like to reach an agreement between management and labour on where we ought to be going in the latter half of the 1980s and in the 1990s on hours of work and on what constitutes overtime and excessive overtime. That is what the task force is in place to do.

In the meantime, I say to my friend—and I hope he will go back and look at my earlier statement on this—we have put new rules in place for applications for the so-called green permit. That is for more than 100 hours. Among those rules, the employment standards branch of my ministry must consult with, in this case, Local 1005 of the union as to its feelings on the legitimacy of the employer's request. I will concede to my honourable friend that I understand such a request from Stelco will be forthcoming at the very early part of next week. Given the fact it is very early in the year, I am sure the branch will be looking at that very closely.

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

Mr. Pope: My question is to the minister responsible for francophone affairs. On page 3 of his statement today, he indicates that the bill he is tabling proposes the adoption of "statutory guarantees," to quote his words. In reviewing this piece of legislation, we see references not to statutory guarantees but to cabinet decision-making and regulation throughout. We see it specifically with respect to subsections 5(1) through 5(4), section 7, subsections 8(1) and 8(2) and sections 9, 10 and 11. Where are the guarantees?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I am glad to hear that the honourable member can count, but he cannot read. There is provision in that bill to create a commission, and that is the responsibility of the commission. The member should read between the lines; there is his answer.

Mr. Pope: There is nothing between the lines and there is nothing in this bill to guarantee French-language services.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: That was not a question, but I can tell the member again that it is the responsibility of the commission and cabinet. If he reads all of the bill, he will get his answers. He can present himself before the committee and bring changes if he wants to. The Conservatives never had the guts to do it in 42 years and now they are criticizing us. They never had the guts.

[Later]

Mr. Pope: I would like to go back to the minister responsible for francophone issues. I have been carefully reading between the lines. Perhaps the minister can help us. Can he indicate what sections in his legislation fall within the guidelines of statutory guarantees as he stated today? Will the minister please read it out?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I made a statement today that the bill will be introduced. It has not been introduced yet and I do not have a copy before me.

Mr. Pope: I will send one over to the minister. I am tempted not only to read the bill to the minister, but also to read between the lines, if that is what he needs to answer the question properly. He is the one who made the statement today that he was providing statutory guarantees. Is he now saying he does not know what they are?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: That was not my answer. My answer was that I will be introducing the bill later this afternoon.

[Later]

Mr. Pope: I have given the minister responsible for francophone affairs a copy of his own kit. I have even underlined the sections to which I was referring. Can the minister now tell the House where the guarantees are?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: As I mentioned before, the commission that will be in place for three years will be working with the ministries on programs to be implemented. After three years, or within the three-year period, these services will be in place and will be guaranteed.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) is being very patient.

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources concerning his intention to impose regulations on our wilderness parks that will govern activities in those parks. Why is the minister so intent on imposing on our parks inadequate and inappropriate regulations that are opposed by groups such as Parks Canada,

the environmental groups, the general public and, as a matter of fact, by members of his own cabinet, as I understand it? Why is he so intent on rubber-stamping a parks policy that is inadequate and that was suggested first by a previous minister from a previous government?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The reason I support the position that was put before me is that there are a tremendous number of people who now want to use our parks and the agreement of this government is to regulate many more parks. When we look at the uses, we have to consider all the people of Ontario, who have every right to be in our parks and use them as they see their recreational needs. In fact, we have addressed ourselves to those areas where we would have complete wilderness parks for those people who enjoy that type of involvement. We would not have designated so many parks if we had not taken into account all those uses.

I think the member for Nickel Belt, all members of the Legislature, and my cabinet and caucus colleagues will play a role in deciding where we go with the regulation of those parks.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Laughren: That is a very strange response. Can the minister tell us whether he really believes that in a wilderness park—and I stress that these are wilderness parks, not day-use parks to which I am referring—it is appropriate to have logging, mining, trapping, hunting, tourist operations and hydro developments? Does the minister think we can have a wilderness park worthy of the name and have those activities going on in it?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is appropriate that the last use the honourable member mentioned is one I am very much in favour of. We look at the threat around the world, and I am looked to as Minister of Energy to find other ways to generate power. We cannot have it both ways. I hope we will be able to generate every bit of electrical power there, particularly in northern Ontario. That is an excellent use, but it will only be done when we can investigate and make sure of the impact, and after I have talked to my friend the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) to make certain he is satisfied. I will do all those things.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Some months ago, the ministry embarked on a program of purchasing houses on McClure Crescent that are situated on radioactive soil. Having acknowledged the existence of radioactive soil by purchasing them, why is the

ministry now renting out the houses it has purchased, taking advantage of people's desperate need for housing to house families in homes other families left because of the problems?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I did not get the question. I do not understand the question.

Mrs. Grier: Why is the Ministry of Housing putting on the market for rent the homes on McClure Crescent that it purchased because they are built on ground where radioactive soil has been discovered?

Hon. Mr. Curling: When we gave the people on McClure Crescent the option to sell us their houses, it was not in recognition that the soil was dangerous.

Mr. Sterling: Why did you buy them then?

Hon. Mr. Curling: We gave them an option.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have answered the question. There was a supposed supplementary question that was out of order.

Mrs. Grier: May I ask the minister why he has not taken advantage of some of those homes being vacant, as a result of his purchase, to remove the contaminated soil?

Hon. Mr. Curling: As I said, we gave those people an option. We are trying to find a place to move the soil to. Until we locate a place in which to put the soil, we cannot move it.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. McNeil: I have the signatures of some 400 constituents from the great riding of Elgin, who are requesting the government of Ontario "to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Cousens: To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"The undersigned beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario strongly opposing the unilateral actions of the Liberal government of Ontario, which have created an atmosphere of adversarial confrontation with the health care providers of this province. We deplore the destruction of our world-renowned system of private and public health care by the imposition of a state-controlled health care system.

"We therefore respectfully petition the government of Ontario to begin immediate and

meaningful consultations with the health care providers of this province in a manner that will sustain the quality and excellence of health care for the people of Ontario."

MOTIONS

TRANSFERRAL OF BILL 34

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that Bill 34, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy, be transferred from the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, and that the evidence and documents received by the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions on the said Bill 34 be referred to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS AND AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the order of the House on July 10, 1985, appointing for this parliament the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions be rescinded.

Motion agreed to.

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly review and report on the provision of simultaneous translation services to the House and its committees, and that the evidence and documents received by the standing committee on members' services in the first session be referred to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES ACT LOI DE 1986 SUR LES SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre moved first reading of Bill 8, An Act to provide French Language Services in the Government of Ontario.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre propose la première lecture du projet de loi 8, Loi assurant la prestation des services en français pour le gouvernement de l'Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Rae: I appreciate the chance to participate in this debate. It is always a pleasure to participate in any debate, but it is particularly an opportunity for us to reflect on the government's proposals as announced in the throne speech and, in the spirit of constructive opposition, for us to present some alternatives.

I do not intend to engage in a detailed parsing of the throne speech. It can well be said it was done yesterday by the leader of the Conservative Party who, if I may say so, definitely plumbed the depths of this throne speech. At some considerable length and in considerable detail, he attempted to trace the patrimony or matrimony, or whatever, of each individual proposal laid out in the throne speech. If I thought it was worth while, I would do that, but that has never been my approach on these occasions, and I do not intend to change as a result of having listened to the speech by the leader of the official opposition.

Having heard that speech, I must confess I was more than a little bewildered because, as I understood it—and I was here for the vast majority of that speech—he spent the first half saying how terrible it was and the second half saying they were all Tory ideas anyway. If I could possibly sum up in one sentence what the leader of the Tory party said yesterday, it would be, “The throne speech was so bad that we thought of it first.”

That may be an effective epitaph to the speech given by the Leader of the official opposition. It fair to say that I found it a rather bizarre contradistinction. If the Tories want to lay claim to the rather secondhand pot-pourri, this stew of various high-tech clichés which the government of William Grenville Davis used to deliver upon us, and if they want to insist these ideas are all theirs, then this is a particular dispute with respect to paternity or maternity, and I do not think the New Democrats need to trouble themselves about it. We are happy to give it to whoever wants to claim it, and we will leave it at that.

The throne speech talked about three major issues and three major themes. It talked about

what it calls competitiveness; it talked about education; and it talked about health care. I suggest in each of these fields the government has given us a vision which is far narrower than the one it signed in the accord. It has adopted a rhetoric which is very sadly reminiscent of that contained in so many Conservative throne speeches in the past and if, as somebody and many reporters have suggested, this throne speech reflects the the personal stamp of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), then who are we to differ with that attribution?

I personally feel—and I know that on reflection most people who listened to it will feel—that as a description of our situation, it is completely inadequate. As a call to action, it is, to put it mildly, one-sided and badly biased with respect to the balances that need to be struck in a province of this complexity and diversity and with a history and tradition such as Ontario has. It is a very narrow kind of world that the Liberal Party is presenting to us as the one it wants to create for the 21st century.

The phrase “world class” occurs about 12 or 15 times. I tried to penetrate the speech long enough to add them up and I was not able to do that exactly, but it certainly is a recurring phrase.

Nothing in the throne speech surprised me particularly. Many reporters have asked me whether I was surprised or disappointed. I was neither surprised nor disappointed, because both those things are dependent on expectations. I have not been here as long as many members, but I have been here long enough to serve in opposition with the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson). I have heard him speak on many different occasions, in many other throne speech debates and other debates, and I have read his speeches over the years.

The business bias and the Babbitt-like rhetoric which have a bizarre appeal for some elements in the Liberal Party, apparently now the dominant elements in the Liberal Party, have always surprised me. Having heard Liberal rhetoric both here and in Ottawa—and I hope now that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) is on the other side he will not continue to heckle me whenever I use the word “Ottawa” and refer to that place—none of us in this party is particularly surprised or bewildered by the approach and the position taken.

I see the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) is walking out, but I understand he is coming back. After what I said about him, I do not know why he would want to leave. I thought I was being nice.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Not a very pretty arrangement. What do they do? Go to the movies in the afternoon?

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is reflecting, no doubt, on his own experience in opposition and is assuming that is how everyone behaves today.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I used to empty the House too.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer will have ample time to reminisce after the next election.

I do not know whether the cameras will show the large crowd facing me on the other side. It is bigger than a lot of audiences I have addressed. I see the member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan). I have spoken to smaller crowds in Brampton and I am happy to speak to this one here.

Mr. Callahan: At least they do not go like an accordion, as the official opposition members do.

Mr. Rae: The member's turn on the camera will come; he will get his turn.

The government is following a long tradition of throne speeches. A magic conversion takes place one or two days before a throne speech. As ordinary members of the Legislature, we are not privy to these speeches. We do not see the speech until it is released, although I saw my copy in the lockup, as I am sure some members will be aware.

The papers always have a leak. I do not know how in this age of tight government security. I see the Minister of the Environment shaking his head. There are gnomes at work in his ministry who, just prior to some major announcement, magically manage to get it out, often to one or two papers with which we are all familiar, which have a record of loyal support for one political persuasion or another.

We read the headlines. I saw the headline about a \$1-billion high-tech fund, and reporters asked me, "What do you think of this exciting venture, David Peterson's personal vision of a \$1-billion high-tech fund?" We had to wait until the throne speech to understand precisely what was being referred to. One has to understand the way throne speeches are sold or marketed or exported to understand what is in this document. The government is not proposing \$1 billion of new money.

3:50 p.m.

I see the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) listening carefully. I think he will agree that if one saw a figure of \$1 billion, one would expect that to be \$1 billion that was not there before. It would be unfair to say that is coming

from other programs. We do not have in the throne speech a \$1-billion fund; in fact, we have a fund over a decade. It is a 10-year fund; so, first of all, one divides by 10 and gets \$100 million. There are those who had plans for five, 10 or 1,000 years. Rome had its own particular vision of what its empire would look like over many centuries. If Julius Caesar or one of the fellows at the end just before the Visigoths came down in 442 AD, or whenever it was, announced his budget and announced a program of so many drachmas over so much time, it might be a 500-year program that would amount to trillions of dollars.

The Liberal Party has been far too modest. If it had announced a 50-year program, it would have been a \$5-billion fund. If it had announced a 100-year program, it would have been a \$10-billion fund. It has been far too modest in its description of the fund. We should have seen a headline, with print so fat that it never appeared before in the *Toronto Star*, saying, "Premier announces \$20-billion high-technology fund." Then we would have to wait until page A17 before we appreciated that it would be funded over a period of 200 years.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Why are you taking on the *Toronto Star*?

Mr. Rae: It is the one that occurred to me at the time. I do not know why; it just came into my head. Do not ask me when I am in full flight, please. Would anybody interrupt Mozart when he is composing? Come on; show a little respect.

The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Van Horne) with responsibility for the elderly will get his chance. He will be able to introduce a white paper this year. That in itself deserves a round of applause. Let us hear it for another white paper from the Liberal Party of Ontario. It will not be a task force, but a white paper. That is liberalism in action. He is on the cutting edge of liberalism today—not a green paper, a blue paper or a brown paper, but a white paper. That is the cutting edge of liberalism in 1986 in Ontario.

To get back to this \$1-billion fund, which I think is far too modest, let us look at what it is. It is of \$50 million this year of additional money.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That is a lot of money.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer says, quite correctly, that it is a lot of money. However, with due respect, it is not \$1 billion. It is one twentieth of that, one in 20.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Go back to Rome. Rome was not built in a day.

Mr. Rae: Did the Treasurer say that Rome was not burned in a day? I did not hear it.

Mr. McClellan: It did not fall in a day.

Mr. Rae: It did not fall in a day? That has been my line over the years. Anyway, it took about a month for us to do that one.

I have to congratulate the Liberals. In assuming the mantle of William G. Davis, they have managed, by whatever magic it is, to convert \$50 million into a \$1-billion headline. As public relations artists—and, Lord knows, the Tories wrote the book on PR, how to sell it and how to package it—it was so—

To divert for a moment, I must confess it was so touching to hear the former Treasurer, the former Minister of Industry and Tourism, the former Minister of Health, the former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, now the Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), say—

Another walkout by a member opposite. I can take it. This is what we call an exodus.

It was touching to hear the plea and the statement from the leader of the official opposition, the leader of the Tory party, saying, "Tories, we do not have any style, but we have substance." I sat here for four years when he was minister of everything. He had white papers, consultation papers, budgets with programs that never happened and headlines that said they were going to be doing this for seniors and that for health care. They had it all packaged. They had more studies going and they had it all worked out, but nothing happened.

Here is the leader of that group—those who are left and who are still here today, though there will be fewer tomorrow no doubt, and that is a definition—saying, "We do not have any style." He said to one of his own members that they do not have any style. Imagine saying that about one of one's own members. If Saul Korman said that about me, I could take it. However, to say about some of those Tories that they do not have any style, but they sure have substance, all I can say is that it is a refreshing change from what we saw during the past 42 years.

I want to speak seriously for a moment about the competitiveness argument because I think it is a bogus track for the Liberals to become obsessed with. To talk about competitiveness in that broad use of the phrase without understanding and appreciating the kinds of institutional changes, the kinds of relationships between labour and management, the kinds of inequalities which exist in our society, and to say simply that this has got to be the direction and the way to do it

is to create far more of a free market economy than we have today is a very sad illusion. The Premier may genuinely believe that rhetoric about entrepreneurship and handing over whole aspects and whole slews of government programs to the chamber of commerce is somehow going to resolve Ontario's economic difficulties, but that notion strikes me as bizarre.

It also strikes me as exceedingly strange that the document, the first part of which deals with the economy, in which the government is expressing its sense of where we are at as an economy, fails to discuss or even mention the free trade obsession of the federal government. I had the impression from reading certain newspapers and from watching certain media that the Premier of Ontario was nothing less than Captain Canada when it comes to being opposed to free trade.

I had the distinct impression that this man was there single-handedly standing between a comprehensive free trade treaty and a totally independent country. Alone among the Premiers, he was prepared to lie down on those railroad tracks and stop Brian Mulroney. I had that impression. I would have thought that if that were true and not just so much soap, we would have seen some reference to this major economic discussion taking place now between the governments of Canada and the United States. Instead, we do not have anything which refers or relates to those discussions. I find it, to put it mildly, bizarre.

The language of competition has been used by many international businesses to take their money from this country and run. The language, ethic and morality of international competition as applied by many of our corporations has been used to drive down the standard of living, to eliminate jobs, to destroy the standard of living of many working people, and to shut down factories and take them to Mexico, Japan and Korea. That is the reality. That is the real world out there in respect to what this particular word has come to mean to so many working people of this province.

To say the answer to our problems is for us to be more competitive is simply silly. It is silly for two reasons. First, we agree that we need to have an economy that is productive and competitive. Nobody wants to have an economy that is unproductive and uncompetitive. To suggest that simple pursuit of international competition is going to solve our problems is nonsense. It is not. One does not create a productive economy by creating a mood, an atmosphere and a marketplace that are full of fear. One does not do it by

driving wages down, by destroying trade unions, by reducing living standards or by creating more part-time work and less full-time work. I will be coming to all these issues in a moment.

In the view of our party, it is done by generating an economy that is committed to fairness, just as it is committed to efficiency. For the government to fail to address this question of economic fairness, economic control and what is really taking place in our economy today is irresponsible and inadequate.

4 p.m.

They then turn from the field of competitiveness to the field of education. When I listen to the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), whom we in this party have always thought of as being the Demosthenes of this Legislature, with his general world view of the 19th century, I think that I am sitting in the British House of Commons around 1886, which was the high period of British liberalism.

I listen to him and to the flowery language, and then I see to what depths the Liberal Party is reduced. The minister is simply becoming a shill for the chambers of commerce, coming in here and describing his education policy. It was a sad day, a sad moment to hear that kind of pathetic, narrow view. George Babbitt could not have expressed it any better in 1925.

What is the purpose of an educational system that makes everybody fit like cogs in a machine into the business world and the business civilization? Is that the vision of modern liberalism with respect to education? Is the answer simply to prepare the bridges to business? It is an indication of the vaporization not simply of idealism, but of an understanding.

I see the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) here. Perhaps he can explain to me why streaming was mentioned in the speech the Premier gave soon after he signed the accord. There is no mention of streaming in the throne speech, which is an indication of what the government intends to do. I will tell him what the bridge to business is in my constituency today among my working-class kids. The minister knows perfectly well what I am talking about. The bridge to business is the world that goes out at grade 10 into a low-paid job and into a part-time job. That is what is taking place. That is the real world for those kids. To say the answer is to make our school system safe for Junior Achievers, which seems to be the vision now of the Liberal Party, is a pathetic indication of its understanding of the degree of the difficulties

facing our kids, and our older people too, who need such access to the world of work.

They mention the training problem. As a background to the throne speech, they even have the nerve to produce a report saying less than three per cent of employers are offering training programs, which we have known. We have documented it; we have had reports; we have all had task forces—the government had a task force on it. My colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) and my colleague the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) have been involved. We have sat down with the trade unions and we have talked with businesses. Time and again, we have been through the lack of training programs in the world of business for people who want to advance within the company.

What is the answer of the Liberal Party to that problem? Is it a levy on employers, insisting that we pool our programs to make sure we are not having a beggar-thy-neighbour approach to training? Is it to deal with the continuing scandal of our failure to create an ethic of respect for the skill trades and a world of entry into apprenticeship programs? Is it to deal with the fact that today fewer apprentices are being trained than there were four years ago? No. The answer is something called a "skills bank." I do not know what the hell a skills bank is. It is something you put into a computer and it sets no obligations.

I see the Minister of Government Services and Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) is smiling. Quite sincerely, I tell her those things are words. It is the same kind of buffalo meat we got from the Tories and their programs for all those years. Until we establish a clear obligation to train on the part of employers, they are not going to train employees. All the talking, the computerized programs and the offerings from government are not going to make a tinker's bit of difference unless we say to employers in the province, "You are going to train and you are going to have to train," and use the carrot and the stick.

When it comes to the field of health care, which is the third major pillar of this throne speech, again we have the statements. I do not think any of us can disagree that there are major challenges to face. People are getting older and we have a crisis of ageing. We have a crisis of technology in our system. We have this dangerous and troubling epidemic of cancer, which continues to grow and to be a far more major factor than even health care experts were predicting five years ago. We have a need for

better programs of preventive and community medicine.

That has been the consensus in this party for the last 15 years. If the Liberal Party is saying it now is recognizing that, all I can say is that is great, but we have heard this song before. When I became leader of the party, one of the first things I did, because I came from being a member of Parliament, was to read Tory throne speeches going back to 1971. I admit it was painful. There are aspects of this job that are more difficult than others, but I did and it was interesting going over those speeches. It is not something I would urge anybody else to do unless he has to do it. I would, however, suggest to the minister—and the minister was in my position, coming in too—that she should do it, because she would find that the same civil servants have been drafting the same rhetoric for at least 15 years.

Do not think that when Tom Wells of blessed memory, who is now our agent general and who is here today, was Minister of Health he was not talking about the same degree of concern in his speeches in the late 1970s about a similar issue. Do not think that the Leader of the Opposition, who was Minister of Health for a brief period of a year or so before he moved on to become the Treasurer, had it only in the throne speeches. Let us not forget that this is the same government that promised us home care in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984, and it did it in its last gasp. It was a record for promises, and it was in its last throne speech, the one that took place after the election of May 2.

To hear that description of our problem and to have the government tell us that our response to the problem with respect to seniors is going to be the presentation of another white paper, I think if all our critics got together, we could probably go all the way up to the ceiling with the papers, the studies and the reports that have been kicking around the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. There are studies on the relationship between that ministry and the Ministry of Health. There are studies on the standards in nursing homes and homes for the aged. There are papers with respect to what a community health care program would look like. There is no political will to do anything about it.

To hear as the Liberal contribution to this problem of moving the health care system and of dealing with the vested interests in the system, "We are going to be proposing a white paper," I think it fair to say that it is to laugh—and you have to, or else you cry.

With respect to some ideas that were not there, I was glad the notion of the health care tax was not repeated. That was the tax the Premier wanted to put on those who are sick. He said it was an idea that came into his head and was not policy. This is my first opportunity in the House to say to the Premier that if you have a stockbroker with cancer and a stockbroker without cancer, the idea that the stockbroker with cancer should pay a higher rate of tax than the stockbroker who is healthy is offensive to everything this party believes in.

The idea that one should somehow link one's use of the health care system to one's level of taxation is offensive. It is offensive whether it is tied to income or whether it is not tied to income. It is an idea that, as soon as it is uttered, should simply be rejected. The fact that it has been kicking around in the Premier's head for so long until he finally expressed himself on it is a sad statement.

The other thing he has proposed is the \$53-million slush fund for doctors who now extra bill. Other suggestions he has made are that we have more injected into the health care system from the private sector, that some kind of committee be established and a study done—yet another study—that will look at the parameters of health care going into the 1980s and 1990s.

I have no opposition to governments consulting widely. I know the Premier has called me this week, among other complimentary things, a socialist dictator, unilateral, draconian and other things, for the simple reason that we have suggested it would be in the interests of everybody if the government were to take itself out of its misery, get on with the extra billing matter and put it on the legislative agenda.

4:10 p.m.

I have been called many things in my time, but I must confess to being somewhat baffled by the Premier's comments. I cannot for the life of me understand what is dictatorial about suggesting that, after a government has been in for nearly a year, after we have had a widespread process of consultation in the fall, an extensive period of debate in this House, one of the longest periods of hearings I can recall in living memory with respect to an area where there are really a limited number of issues to be settled and discussed, it should bring that legislation forward now so that it can be amended and ultimately debated and passed on third reading in this House. The premise that this is somehow dictatorial reflects a very curious definition of democracy.

I regard democracy as widespread consultation but also, decision at some point. At some point, the government has to recognize that a decision needs and must be made with respect to health care. All I can tell the Premier is that we do not need studies or task forces. What we need is a commitment to act on behalf of the people of this province and to create a universal health care system that will continue to be among the best in the world.

I am troubled by the inadequacies of the throne speech, but to be quite blunt about it, I am not sufficiently troubled by the rhetoric and bombast surrounding the speech to be diverted from our central task. Let us not forget what the real agenda is going to be this spring. I say to the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, who is here, that it is important for all of us not to be diverted from what is going to be on the agenda this spring.

This spring we are going to be dealing with legislation that flows and continues to flow from the accord negotiated between our party and the Liberal Party last May. All I can say to the Liberal Party is that before it can get to the Tory program, it has to deal with the program negotiated with the New Democratic Party in the accord. It is going to have to deal with the commitments that have already been made.

I know it will be sad and I know it will be hard for the Tories not to wrestle with the issues they failed to deal with over 42 years. Before the Liberals can get to the Tory agenda, which they laid out in the throne speech, they are going to have to bring in the legislation they promised to bring in. They promised the people of Ontario they would bring it in. In our view, the legislation can and needs to come this spring. Let me lay it out.

I have already discussed extra billing. The government is committed to rent control, demolition control and condo conversion. First-contract legislation is in committee and needs to come out. Other measures should include equal pay for work of equal value in the private and public sector; pension reform; Workers' Compensation Board reform; a genuine shift in child care away from welfare orientation and towards a recognition of the needs of the 20th century; and affirmative action, not only for women but for the minority and the handicapped.

That is the spring agenda. That is a good, healthy dose of work for the Legislature of Ontario this spring. That is the agenda that is going to have to be addressed by the government,

not the phoney agenda it brought in in the throne speech.

Three other issues that we have been pushing hard are pensions, insurance and overtime. These three questions, which the government has in front of it and which it has refused to deal with and face up to thus far, but which it is going to have to face up to, relate directly to the working people of Ontario.

I hear the government say it is really interested in talking about beer and wine in the corner store. I was interested to read one of the columns the other day by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter). He was attributing views to us and the Progressive Conservative Party. He has not discussed this issue with me or with my critic, and I do not think he has discussed it with the Leader of the Opposition. I would be delighted to sit down with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to tell him why I think it is a bad idea.

If he asks the working people of Ontario whether affordable car insurance is more important than beer and wine in the corner store, I know what the answer will be. If he asks whether they think pensions that not only stay with them when they change jobs, but that will be indexed to the cost of living are more important than beer and wine in the corner store, I have no doubt which way they will go.

That issue, a peculiar obsession of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and of the Premier himself, is a nonstarter as far as I am concerned. Sometimes the minister says the New Democratic Party is in the thrall of the unions. Have members ever heard that accusation before?

Mr. Breaugh: Once or twice.

Mr. Rae: Have you heard it in Bellwoods? The members should come to York South. We hear it everywhere. The Tories used to say it too, but there is a certain mean-spiritedness to the way Liberals say it. They have this peculiar anti-union thing, which the Liberals have always had and which some experience in office may have tempered slightly. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations says, "I can understand the NDP position, because it is in the thrall of the unions," whatever that means. "They are completely beholden to the trade union movement." There is somehow an animal out there that continues to bark whenever I open the door, and then I bounce back and say, "Yes, sir."

Let me describe to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, since he has never asked me and he is not here today—I am sure the

cameras will reflect on the empty seat—why I think it is an idea that will not wash. I will describe it for the record.

My reasoning is very simple. This is not 1950 and it is not 1960. It is not an era in which we feel a need to rebel against blue laws or something of that kind, as some generations have. It is a different kind of era. It is one in which more of us understand some very basic realities.

One, and perhaps the most basic, is that alcohol, which is widely consumed in our society, is a mixed blessing. It is something all of us—I do not say all, but most of us—imbibe from time to time, but if we imbibe too much, it causes problems. If young people imbibe too much, it causes problems, and if old people do, it does as well. If people imbibe and drive at the same time, it causes enormous problems and often death on the road.

I know people say, “If there is one thing on which the trendies and auto workers could agree, it is the need for us to have access to beer and wine in the corner stores.” It seems like a good idea when you think about it, but this is really the way I approach this issue. Maybe it is too simple and maybe it is not the most complex way of approaching it, but it is the way I approach it. If the purpose of selling beer and wine in corner stores is to make it more convenient, as I see it, the purpose is to increase the accessibility and consumption of the product. You cannot have it both ways. If you are trying to say, “Let us make it more convenient,” you are trying to improve accessibility. In the end, you are going to increase consumption.

That is my view. It is fair to say it is also the view of the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation. Our researchers and I have been talking to those people, and it seems to be the consensus of expert opinion that is what will happen. If that is the case, I do not think it makes sound public policy in the 1980s for us to be doing that.

It happens in Quebec; it happens in Europe; it happens in the United States and so on. All I can say is that we are faced with a situation in Ontario today where we can make a choice. We have a fairly good marketing system for beer and wine. There are problems with the way it works. There are some ways it can be improved, but if you ask me whether I think there is a clamour out there for a wholesale change in the way people have access to beer and wine, the answer is that I do not.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: There are Tories in all parties.

Mr. Rae: I do not think so. I say to the Treasurer in all sincerity, my view is this: If the effect is to increase consumption among kids and people who already have a drinking problem—and the view of every authority I have talked to seems to be that will be the case—it is wrongheaded public policy for us to be going in that direction. That is my opinion.

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations will say, “Bob Rae is speaking because the unions gave him a phone call.” I have had this view and I have had arguments with members of my party and members of my family on this question. People have different points of view. That is how I feel.

4:20 p.m.

I also feel, and I do not think this is unreasonable, that if a government has a choice between creating stability in employment and forcing a technological change, or whatever one wants to call it, that will produce very substantial unemployment among a certain group of people, as much as 2,000 or 3,000 jobs, it has nothing to do with unions; it has to do with jobs and with people.

I am going to come back to this. I have already had letters. I am getting letters on pensions from people who work for Conrad Black and from people who work in insurance. There are questions on overtime. My office continues to be filled with people in their 40s, 50s and 60s from whatever industries they were working in who cannot get a job, who cannot get work. There are young people who cannot get jobs. I do not think it is wise for us to be sitting around in our constituency offices with rows of people who have been working at Brewers' Retail and Liquor Control Board of Ontario places saying, “I have just been laid off because the government thinks it is a great idea to change the whole marketing arrangement.”

My God, if a government has a choice as to whether it is deliberately going to create industrial dislocation, why do it? There is no great public pressure to do it. I do not understand why it would want to do it.

I go back to what I started to say. If the agenda of the Liberals is this kind of 21st century bumf, and that is all it is, coupled with a kind of decision to give the high school system back to the chamber of commerce, to make the elementary schools safe for junior achievement and to turn the whole of our educational system into a training ground for Amway salesmen, that is fine. That is its approach. That is its decision. If

that is its vision of the future, it can go ahead. That is fine; it can try to package it and sell it.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: You want to make them hotbeds of socialism.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is getting positively excited, which is a good sign. It shows there is still life there. It is good; it is healthy. I am told it is the joy of stress. I was reading a book the other day, *The Joy of Stress*. I will send it over to the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: What is it called?

Mr. Rae: It is called *The Joy of Stress*. The Treasurer will get off on it. It will be good for him. Get it all out. Let it hang out. Do not bottle it up. By all means let it slide.

If that is the agenda they want to take to the people, I wish them well. To the reporters who say, "The Liberals are going to get the biggest majority of all time, if an election were held yesterday, it would have 612 seats," I say, "Let history unfold and we will see what will happen."

I want to say to the Legislature today, to the Treasurer and the people who are here, not in any great depth because there will be ample time for that, what the alternative is going to be and what the alternative really is. There is another program and another agenda in addition to the one I have discussed in terms of the accord that needs to be addressed. Rather than a tired and pretty fatuous technocracy, we need a tough-minded populism, a populism from government that understands what the people of this province are going through, what they really want and aspire to and look to see in their government.

I know of the Treasurer's concerns. I ask him to look at what is going on in the economy today. I ask him to look at the degree of speculation that is taking place, at the amount of paper activity. When we open up the business section of the newspaper, what do we read? Do we read about a new investment, or a new invention or about entrepreneurship in the sense of people saying they will take a risk?

We see a process of acquisition, merger and paper activity that rewards the clever but does nothing to reward innovation, does nothing to reward productivity and does nothing to reward the creation of work and the creation of jobs. That is what the people of Ontario want to hear. They want to hear a government speaking from the business heart of this country say to the people of this province: "Much of what passes for business in this province is not business. It is pure and simple paper activity that does not produce a single job, does not put a single person to work and does not provide a single opportunity."

When Conrad Black and Dominion Stores take \$62 million out of a pension fund and refuse to pay any severance pay, rather than have a minister like the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations say there is nothing immoral, nothing illegal and nothing wrong and nothing unethical about what has happened," the people want to have a government that says, "Surely to goodness there is something wrong with the moral basis of an economy which rewards people whose only skill is their ability to shut down plants, take the money out, disappear and go off to England because they aspire to a position in the House of Lords and want to imitate Lord Beaverbrook or Lord Thomson." Let them go; let that exodus take place; let the speculators and ripoff artists go. I am tired of them, and I say that with all sincerity.

I went to the Canadian Labour Congress convention yesterday. As I walked through the door, a woman came up to me and gave me a button. It was a funny button about Conrad Black. She started talking to me and she started to cry. She is 61 years old, she worked for 24 years in Dominion Stores and she now has nothing. She says she is going to lose her house and she has got nothing coming. We see that happening in this province. When we have a minister in this government saying there is nothing immoral and nothing illegal about that, there is something wrong with the capacity of that government to understand what the people of this province think is fair.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Does she not have a pension?

Mr. Rae: I am saying to the Treasurer—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Speak to the Pension Commission of Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Try it.

The Treasurer is in a position to do something, to express a sense of fairness and a sense of what is the guts of an economy. It is not people monkeying around with money here and speculating there, buying up this and acquiring that. That is not what makes an economy work. What makes an economy work is jobs, a commitment to production and a commitment to productivity.

What in God's name is productive about so much of what passes for business and economic behaviour? That is the contradiction we are going to have to deal with, and we are going to have to deal with that as government. We are going to have to recognize, when we look at what is happening across northern Ontario, for example, that the commitment of big business to big job

creation and to big projects is not there. It is not there for a whole bunch of reasons.

Who owns Algoma? Canadian Pacific owns Algoma. I talked to the president of Algoma, and we had a good conversation. He emphasized that he has lived in Algoma and he is third generation. I am not taking anything away from him, but as I was talking to him, I reflected on the fact that his shareholders are not the workers at Algoma or the people living in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. His shareholder is CP and it tells him what to do. It is a bottom line for them; it is this thing here. What is there? If that does not work, we do this. If a worker is no good, then out he goes too. Off with his head. That is the approach.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Like politics.

Mr. Rae: If the minister looks at the forestry industry, what is happening with respect to a number of different plants in this province and what is happening in western economies, the preoccupation has to be to say, "If the private sector is not able to generate the kind of productivity and the kind of development and growth that is necessary, it is time the working people of the province and the people together pool some of their resources and started to invest in this economy."

I do not understand why workers have so little access to their pension money and why working people have so little control over their pension money. We see those things as playthings. A few people who are professional investment experts say, "We will put it here and put it there; if it makes a lot of money, we will take it out," and off it goes. The people who are affected by all these changes that are happening are almost like the people at the bottom of the sea. It is all a mystery to them.

4:30 p.m.

They get the news on a pink slip on a Friday afternoon. They are told that this is the way of the world. They have ministers who say there is nothing immoral about it, nothing illegal about it and nothing unethical about it. I think there is. It is time we created an economy that responded to people, to where they are really at, to what they want, to what their fears and their aspirations are. It is time we had an economy that looks at the Ontario family as a family and says: "We have to find and generate the means to regain greater control over our own economy. Whatever needs to be done, let it be done."

If it means more community control, then let that happen. If it means giving workers more access and more responsibility and, yes, a little more power, then let that happen too. But we

cannot continue with a world in which fewer and fewer people are making decisions and things just happen to everyone else. We cannot carry on in a world where people are genuinely powerless in affecting their future. That vision is being given to us by the other parties.

Earlier in my speech, I said the question of streaming was not even mentioned. I get annoyed, to put it mildly, when I see this bridge to business stuff and all this about the chamber of commerce and Junior Achievement and the need to have classes in entrepreneurship starting in grade 3 and so on. That does not relate to the people I represent, and I do not think it relates to the majority of the people of this province.

We have a problem of illiteracy in our school system today. We have to face up to it. We have tremendous problems with respect to opportunities for people. We have problems with streaming. In many cases, we have a whole generation of immigrants who are simply slammed into dead-end jobs and positions and dead-end training. We have to deal with that problem and address it. We do not address it by talking nonsense about how all the world will be safe if we can have more classes in entrepreneurship. That is not the problem.

The problem is a school system which has left too many people behind. The problem is a failure to address the educational needs of people, not simply between the ages of six and 18, but to recognize that people in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s are going to need continuing access to an education system.—and not simply to a system. They will need recognition from their society and their government that they matter as people and that whether a 40-year-old person can read or not is important. We should not have to go through 65 government programs and 22 welfare rejects before it is finally recognized that there is a problem. That is the reality—not this nonsense about Junior Achievement and all the rest of it.

We have heard from our critic the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and from my colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) about the related problems of health and safety in the environment. It is a question of what kind of power, access and control over their lives we give to people. The evidence is growing—and we will be documenting it daily—with respect to the health care and health needs of our people and how they are being ignored by their employers and by polluters who pollute and continue to get away with it.

I go back to my point. I strongly believe it is a question of power and control and the ability of

people to affect their futures and their lives. It is an emotional question. No doubt, the House will be shocked, as I was, not simply to hear the statistics, but to talk to the shells of people in Timmins and Kapuskasing and across this province, who came up to us and talked about what happened to them in the work place, and to realize that 25 years ago the government of Ontario had information with respect to the levels of radiation in the gold mines. That information has been there and has been collected by the companies and by the ministry. Workers were exposed to levels of radiation which they should not have been exposed to, and nothing has happened to change the basic laws and the basic sense of fairness with respect to compensation.

Is this a social issue or an economic issue? Living alongside factories are people whose health care continues to be ignored. We still do not have a structure of environmental law worthy of the word. In the speech from the throne, the mention of the environment was negligible—clearly an indication that the activist tendencies of the Minister of the Environment have been put on hold. He has been told to put his sword back in its sheath, to sit at his desk and his deputy minister will take care of everything. He will go out and talk to people and he will resolve the problems. Whatever degree of activism was once there has been quieted. That is sad because we had an opportunity in this province, and we continue to have an opportunity, to face the reality that as long as it is cheaper to pollute than to clean up, companies will continue to pollute. Those are the economics.

It is the same thing with respect to health and safety. The record of the Ministry of Labour is 80,000 charges and 50 convictions. Look at the Ministry of Labour; it is pathetic. They cannot enforce employment standards and they have given everybody a holiday over the last three years for any overtime infraction that has taken place. That is gone. We have an occupational health and safety branch that has 50 convictions after 80,000 charges, and the minister comes in here and says in all seriousness on April 28, "Occupational health and safety is the most important part of my ministry and my most important responsibility." It is to weep because it is not being done.

Is that a social issue? Is that an economic issue? It is both because it is costing our economy and it is costing people in terms of their ability to produce and live rewarding lives. The alternatives are so clear: Give more power to people; give more responsibility to working people

themselves to enforce the law; create a class of inspectors who can do things; create a greater degree of power in communities to deal with the levels of pollution in those communities and we will begin to resolve the issue.

Finally, the tough-minded populism that I think our province needs so badly will tell it like it is with respect to taxes and with respect to discrimination against women, the disabled and minorities. It will not be afraid to address the fact that in this cosy economic world that is out there there really is an incredibly unfair distribution of benefits, of opportunities and of chances, and all the rhetoric in the world is not going to overcome that.

The government slides off the words "affirmative action" and "employment equity." The record of this government and governments in the past with respect to the hiring of the disabled is pathetic; it is abysmal. The number of people hired in the public service of this province who are disabled is abysmal. The opportunities are there and the needs are so great. Again, where is the will? Where is the sense that this is what is troubling this province, not some nonsense about a world-class this and a world-class that for the 21st century? What is troubling and what is at the heart of this province is a sense that we can do so much better as a people if we can only pull ourselves together and work far more effectively as a team, recognizing that we are all diminished when people are treated not as people but simply as commodities.

That is the economy we have produced. That is the economic order in which we live. We seek not only a better world but also a different kind of economy. I say to all those who have observed the events of the last year and all those who will observe the events of the next year that there is an Ontario out there that is waiting to be heard. There is a sense of what our economy and what our province could be like.

Our party pays its respects to productivity and efficiency because we live in a world where those things have to be important if we are to make our way, but we recognize that those places in the world that are truly world-class are those which provide justice for all their people, that recognize that the dignity of individuals is recognized when we give them power, when we give them the means and the ability to do things.

4:40 p.m.

A Portuguese woman who is 45, illiterate and works as a cleaner in the Toronto-Dominion Centre is forced to work six or seven hours a night, the second job that she does. At one

moment she asks the government to change legislation so she can have a little bit more bargaining power with the Reichmanns, Olympia & York, the Bank of Montreal or whomever it may be.

We look forward to the day when there is a government in Ontario that will not simply respond by saying, "We will try to take care of your individual problem," but will say: "We will change the law to give you the power to do what you want to do. We have a government that wants to recognize the claim and the right of that person to a place in the sun." That person's right is just as great as anybody else's. We must recognize we cannot have that place in the sun unless we have a government that is prepared to be tough, that is prepared to be the people's advocate and not simply the apologist for a corporate and economic order that has lost its sense of its own morality and its sense of where it wants to go.

Mr. Speaker, you will be hearing from our party about these issues. I suspect you will not be hearing a great deal about beer and wine in the corner store or about the other issues that flit across the agenda of the Liberal Party and are here today and gone tomorrow. You will be hearing about the gut issues that matter to the people of this province, that trouble them, move them, make them laugh and make them cry, make them sing and make them feel they are truly human. That is what politics is all about and that is what our party will be all about in this session.

Ms. E. J. Smith: The other day when I had the pleasure of listening to the throne speech, I had to pause and say to myself: "Are these not exciting times to be living in Ontario? In particular, are they not exciting times to be governing in Ontario?"

It was not just the speech itself that made me think this, but my knowledge that in the past year this government has proved it can do more than talk. Indeed, when it says it will do something, it sets out on a course to act. We have seen a session in which we received royal assent to 39 bills, many of them important. We know how many important bills are in committee at present and what a difference these will make in the province.

It is not only the fact that we do things that made me excited, but the way we do things, with openness and public input. I point particularly to that most contentious bill we received as our first piece of business, Bill 30. We took that bill out of the secrecy of the dark rooms of the ministry, where none of us could find out what was in the

drafts, and brought it out into the open where it was discussed and available for people to see. We heard more than 500 delegations in committee. I am proud to say that as time went on, I heard tremendous reports about the attention paid to those delegations. This was reinforced for me when the minister submitted to the committee several amendments of consequence that he was going to propose for this bill that were the result of the public's participation and suggestions. This is openness of a kind not equalled before, and I am proud to be part of it.

I am proud as well because this is not just a throne speech that talks, but a throne speech that moves on to action. In this regard, I would like to mention the spills bill, which was passed in 1979 and left sitting around by the Conservative government for six years. The first committee meeting I had the pleasure of attending after I was elected was in the main committee room. A bunch of insurance agents and businessmen were telling us, as they had been doing for six years, why it was absolutely impossible to pass this bill. That was within the first three weeks of the election, when the Conservative government was still in place. When the government changed, we got action. We got a spills bill. It was talk, talk, but the talk stopped and then resolve took over. Fortunately for Ontario, we made great strides for the environment.

The speech from the throne is not vague; it could be if we knew it was built on no record of action. It is interesting that after 42 years the Conservative government, knowing it had only a brief period left to live, introduced a vast succession of detailed bills which it had failed to do over the past several years, simply because it finally knew it could not do anything with them anyhow. That is easy to do at that point.

When this government proposes something, it knows it will act on it. Therefore, it does it with care and dedication. We have seen bills and acts as varied as the first-contract legislation, which is currently being studied, and the Family Law Act, which became the first act passed, to such things as a fund to protect motor vehicle buyers in the event of bankruptcy. From very serious to very minor, we have moved through these many bills. At present, 69 are under consideration or have already been enacted.

As well, we have set up task forces to bring in reports for action on such things as midwifery, the loan and trust companies and all that can be done to get this difficult group back under proper control.

We have seen a setup where we know that we will be looking to consultants for complete improvements to the health and welfare delivery systems and at such minor and present problems as have arisen to date as, once again, overtime hours. These things are being studied by task forces. We look forward to their implementation. I share with members of the New Democratic Party their concern that these reports come in as fast as possible. I am confident this will happen.

As well, we have looked at regulations of importance to the people, from those with a great many consequences for people in jobs, such as the soft-drink containers regulations, to others more subtle but equally as important in a different way, such as regulations for rides at our fairs. We have seen the importance of regulations for openness and enforcement within our workplace with regard to hazardous substances as they affect workers. We are proud of these regulations, which we have seen enacted.

I must tip my hat to the idealism of my NDP friends. I share many of their ideals. I share their grave concern about the huge conglomerates which are taking over so much of our business activities and wealth.

Mr. Cureatz: In the next campaign, I want the member to say that during the all-candidates' debate.

Ms. E. J. Smith: The member will be happy to know I have said that in my campaign. He does not need to worry.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I agree with the bishops who reported in the paper their concern that unions must be strongly preserved. I agree with this position. As companies get bigger and stronger, more powerful and concentrated, we need to be assured that unions are also strong to balance that.

Mr. Cureatz: The member should ask her husband about that.

Ms. E. J. Smith: Mr. Speaker, would you care to remind the members that I am speaking?

Interjections.

Mr. Cureatz: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I know the honourable member is new in this assembly, but I want to point out to her that if she takes a look even at the new rules, interjections are allowed in these chambers.

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Ms. E. J. Smith: My point is that if members wish to address personal remarks, they should

address them to me and to my activities. I am not here to defend any other individuals.

The Acting Speaker: Please proceed with your speech.

4:50 p.m.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I have said to many of my business friends and relations, who I know care a good deal about the decent wages and decent working conditions for the people who work for them, that they are indeed protected by the fact they can work along with strong unions. If this were not so, they might well have to compete in business with employers who are willing to scrimp on safety and who are willing to pay less than a decent wage. As far as I am concerned and as far as this government is concerned, a balance of strong unions, strong government and strong business serves the population, the business and the employees well.

I rejoice, therefore, in the reforms on which we ran and have been able to work out together with the members of the New Democratic Party in such areas as safety measures in the plants, first-contract legislation and reform of the Workers' Compensation Act. I welcome the new thrust in the throne speech towards Ontario ownership programs which will help encourage people working for a company to have ownership in it.

In the area I am about to address, I reflect more of my Liberal background, and that is that I feel a strong sense of the importance of small business. Small business is the backbone of this province. It not only is the biggest job creator, but it is also the area in which new people from different backgrounds can move up, make progress and share in the wealth of this province. Small business makes way for new entrepreneurship, and it is on such entrepreneurship that this province thrives. Small business keeps open the rewards of hard work and risk taking. As I have said, it is in this area that most jobs are created.

I am happy, therefore, to work with the NDP in the very things we share as common interests. I am happy to work for the Liberal Party and the government in those other areas I consider important. We have done well in the first year of the accord and I know we will do well in the second year and in completing the many jobs we have taken on at this time.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) has suggested we are going on vague promises and reshaped programs. The activities we have done in one year in this government and in this accord have proved the reality is far different. I defy him to produce any such list of accomplish-

ments for any recent year of the Conservative government.

Because of that, the promises in this throne speech are not vague but are promises of a continuum of what we have seen in this first year. The particular areas I want to address are where we have come from and where we are going. In the area of small business and technology, we rid ourselves of the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp. not because of what it had intended to do, but because it had become top heavy and full of dead wood and it was better to move on with fresh ideas. We got rid of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program which had commonly and for good cause become known as the "bilge" program.

We have moved into new programs and new initiatives in small business development. We have given the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wellington South (Mr. Ferraro), special responsibilities to look at small business plans, to look at those programs currently in place and to see where they do not fit the present needs, so that they can be adjusted and made appropriate for the needs of small business today. I have referred several businessmen to him for this reason and I will continue to do so. They are very satisfied with this approach.

We have extended small business help to greater areas and to other types of service. We will be extending small business assistance into the area of service as well as production. This is very important in a province where 70 per cent of jobs come from service industries. I do not know how many members were around at the time of Expo in Montreal. It was well demonstrated there that as machinery replaces men in factories, so indeed will we move into service industries and wealth that is shared, because machines have helped us all. This extension of service to the service industry is most important.

In the area of technology, the throne speech has promised a \$1-billion fund for technological improvement and a council that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself will guide. The Leader of the Opposition sees no change in this; I see a tremendous change from the time, for instance, when he as Treasurer revoked the small business tax holiday.

In the area of education and skills development, we have a continuum of what was already promised and activated and what is promised for the future. When we took over, you needed a master of arts degree to be able to understand the programs available if you did not have the skills

to get a job. We have taken all these programs and put them together in the Futures program which, because it is one program, is more easily understood and administered and will be more easily improved as time proves necessary.

We have promised new schools and courses in the area of technology; new programs in technology to be aired on TVOntario to help people throughout the province; and a new program of business and industrial training to help those who have been replaced by machines or other efficiencies in the market.

We have moved in the area of co-op programs to facilitate job placement, not only between colleges and businesses, but even with high schools. I am proud that Catholic Central High School in London has been one of the first to take advantage of this program and has had approved a \$40,000-project to work high school students into business.

We have recognized that because of a withdrawal of federal funding, there is an extreme problem in funding universities. We increased our funding by eight per cent, put \$39 million into a catch-up fund for libraries and buildings and put \$80 million into an excellence fund. More than that, in the throne speech we are addressing areas of excellence. Before I came to this House, I was on the board of governors of the University of Western Ontario and was able in that capacity to address the same issues I am addressing now. The throne speech envisions a time when universities must co-operate in creating centres of excellence in special fields. No longer can they compete; not every college can have the excellence necessary in every faculty. The throne speech recognizes that; it recognizes the need for this excellence and hopes for the co-operation of the whole university community in creating these excellence packages throughout Ontario.

5 p.m.

In women's issues, when we came to power there was a need for attention. Women are very prominent in all poverty groups. They earn 65 per cent of what their male counterparts earn. We have moved first in the area of equal pay for work of equal value in the civil service.

I note with interest that when first-contract legislation was proposed, both the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail had editorials suggesting the programs did not offer enough to please labour and offered too much to please management, so they were probably pretty good.

I suggest the same is true of equal pay. The women are finding the programs are not enough

or not quick enough, while the business people are telling us they will create bankruptcies. The two extremes lead me to believe the first-contract act would probably have found a happy medium. I am happy and excited to see these programs move ahead.

In day care, we set up funds for 10,000 new spaces. I will continue to push for these to become mandatory at certain levels in communities. We set up latchkey programs, which are now protecting and assisting 70,000 children between the ages of six and 12 in this province. I am proud to say London has taken advantage of that program and has 2,000 children involved in its latchkey program.

As to women's issues, I want to make this point and make it strongly. The throne speech addresses many programs that are not specifically for women and yet do address women's problems. First, the push on small business is very supportive of women. It is interesting to note that many of the small businesses are started by women. Women's businesses have a success record after three years in 47 per cent of the cases, as compared to 25 per cent for men. Helping small business is really opening new opportunities to women, and women will take advantage of this.

Part-time-work legislation, first-contract legislation and training assistance are all helps that women need especially. Women are in the group of unemployed who need these. The new thrust in pensions also assists women. Portability, widows' pensions and division of assets in family breakdown are all parts of other acts, but are still of assistance to women. I suggest to anyone who says this throne speech has done nothing for women or that this government has done nothing that they have not really taken into consideration the thrust of all these programs.

The support systems for the frail and elderly are one of the most important new thrusts of this government. In 20 years, our old people will have increased by 41 per cent and they will have doubled in 30 years. Already, we have put \$11 million into a pilot project for services to the elderly in their homes, and that will grow to \$60 million. We have put away \$1 million for those with Alzheimer's disease. I will not dwell on this because the minister in this area, the member for London North, will be speaking to this very shortly.

In the social assistance area, I had the opportunity of meeting with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) in the company of the Ontario Social Develop-

ment Council. I was pleased and delighted to hear from him, and to see repeated in the throne speech, that he considers our present social welfare legislation was written for the 1920s, for short-term assistance in another era, and must not be patched up any longer, but completely revised.

In the area of health, we are into a time of an explosion of information. The members of the opposition now are happy to point out to us the things we could be doing that are not being done. I wonder whether we will ever again reach a point where we will not be able to find individuals who need our help, and help that is theoretically available; however, in this tremendous area of expanded knowledge we will have to move to priorities and into introducing the plans into our society.

I can give the House two examples of this tremendous explosion of knowledge and what it can mean to us all. Recently, I was speaking to two orthopaedic surgeons in London. We were not discussing extra billing but the creation of industries in Canada to serve the medical fraternity. These two orthopaedic surgeons alone use \$1 million worth of hardware for surgery in the course of a year. This is the cost of the hardware, the hips and joints alone. It does not take into consideration the physiotherapy, the drugs or the hospital treatment. All these are added on to that \$1 million.

In London, we also have a treatment of leukaemic children which is now 80 per cent successful, and yet its cost is approaching \$1 million per child. For all of society, we need to stop casting about and calling names. We need to sit down together to work on our long-term health priorities and planning, recognizing that the money comes from the taxpayers. It is the taxpayers who become sick and who need the service. However, it is with the doctors that we must sit down to work out the delivery of services and the priorities that are meaningful and that we can afford. I hope we can get beyond the discussion of the one per cent that goes to extra billing as soon as possible and get on with these important issues.

In the last budget, we were introduced to a new realism, and I know we will receive more of the same in our new budget. We got rid of bad debts that we recognized would never be paid, such as debts owed by one part of the government to another. Those were not assets. We got rid of bad investments. The money we lost in Suncor was an embarrassment to everybody. We got that off the books. We got rid of bad and silly ideas, such

as Minaki Lodge. It may have cost us money in the books, but it cost us no money in reality. Instead, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) introduced new plans for long-term planning with a finance committee to look at them. For the municipalities and the school boards, he introduced the ability to plan in the long term by giving them in advance a promise of a minimum increase for next year.

In the area of housing—and I am glad to see the Minister of Housing here at this time—we have already put forward plans for what must be done: 10,000 nonprofit units, 5,000 subsidized units and a \$50-million fund to look towards this. We are moving in new and creative ways, towards \$400,000 in granny flats.

As well, we look forward anxiously to the new proposals that are coming from this ministry. We look forward to them with excitement, because the ministry has found a new approach to the housing programs. The two groups that suffer most, in their own view, from existing problems have sat down together—the tenants represented by the tenants' associations and the developers who feel so strongly about rent controls. These groups are being asked to work at creative solutions. I am confident they will come forward not only with compromises for short-term solutions, but also with long-term plans that will finally resolve the long-term housing situation for Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: Bash the Tories some more. I want to hear the member bash the Tories some more. Come on.

Ms. E. J. Smith: We have done more than promise. In looking back at the issues, I note that when I was running a year ago, the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (G. I. Miller) introduced as a private bill in this Legislative Assembly, a bill to give a reduction in interest to farmers. That bill was defeated and not passed on to committee because 25 members of the Conservative government rose to oppose it.

5:10 p.m.

When we became the government, we not only brought in interest relief, but we were also the first province to get the tripartite agreement through. We acted for the farmers. We acted on drinking and driving, on tainted wines that had been sitting around for some time and which had not been dealt with, on the fact that 50 to 70 per cent of alimony payments—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) and the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe) will please—

Mr. Mancini: I just want him to know why he is over there.

Mr. Ashe: I can tell him his inconsistency will be back to haunt him.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Let the member for London South speak, please.

Ms. E. J. Smith: We acted on alimony payments, 50 to 70 per cent of which were not being paid. We have put in legislation that will correct this situation. We acted on the indexing of child support where it was needed, an essential service in an essential area.

We acted on patronage. One now hears the names MacDonald, Di Santo, Elgie, Drea and Jamieson, and today, Ramsay. We now know that Liquor Control Board of Ontario appointments will be done in the way all government appointments are done, by who can do the job best, rather than by whom the cabinet selects.

We have opened up advertising and lottery agencies for tenders and proposals. We got rid of the title Queen's Counsels, which had become meaningless and patronage in nature. Instead, we introduced the Order of Ontario in the throne speech.

The Leader of the Opposition suggests nothing is new. I suggest there is so much new I was unable to cut down my speech in pointing out the new things. I suggest that members of the official opposition stick around and be with us to enjoy the excitement of what we are about to do in this new throne speech. It is too late for the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), but I would suggest the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) and the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) stick around. It is going to be a very exciting session.

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to remind honourable members that the provisional standing orders provide for a 10-minute period to ask questions and to comment on the speech of a member. A member may ask questions and make comments for not more than two minutes. Following such questions and comments, two minutes are reserved out of the 10-minute period for the reply of the member originally speaking. In other words, there are eight minutes for questions and comments and then two minutes shall be reserved.

Are there any comments or questions that members wish to ask the member for London South? There being none, the next member to speak is the member for Mississauga East.

Mr. Gregory: I am really quite underwhelmed by the speech I just heard from the member from Wonderland, although I always thought her first name was Alice. I am quite amazed at the repetitious litany. As a matter of fact, we heard that speech just the other day, but I must confess I thought the Lieutenant Governor (Mr. Alexander) read it much better and without the bias. There was a certain amount of bias from the member from Wonderland. She requested that members stick around. We are going to stick around because we know they are not going to be there long and we do not want to miss it. Believe me, we will be here to see these wonderful things that are going to happen.

The Deputy Speaker: I am glad the member for Mississauga East does not wish to comment on the speech of the member for London South, but is only going to address the speech from the throne.

Mr. Gregory: I was under the impression that is what I was doing. If I do anything wrong, I want you to correct me as I go along. I want to comment on the speech from the throne. I see all my favourite members are across the way. It is nice to have all my good friends here. It is going to be difficult to speak at great length because there is really nothing of any great consequence in this throne speech to talk about, so I will speak for a short time.

Despite the rhetoric we heard, there is really nothing new. There are a lot of good ideas in there. It is a darned good thing the Conservatives were here for 42 years and did write some throne speeches; otherwise, they would not have had anything to state over there in this throne speech. There is nothing new.

Since the Liberals became the government, they have been doing nothing but continuously stepping on the toes of business and entrepreneurs. They have done this in many ways. The throne speech makes it quite apparent that they are now trying to appeal to the business community, but the specifics are hard to tell from reading it.

The speech does make one reference to small business development corporations and the fact they are going to be expanded. I gather this is another new Liberal idea. As a matter of fact, the SBDC program was begun by the member for Muskoka, who came up with it many years ago. It was continually expanded until the last budget, the first Liberal budget, when the Liberal government—I am on the throne speech because definite reference was made to this—cut down the SBDC program. It was so successful the Liberals

cut it back. Remember when they did that? The 30 per cent refund to investors for investment in southern Ontario was cut back to 25 per cent. It was working so well that they cut it back.

They have taken that approach with so many programs. The Urban Transportation Development Corp. is another example. It is doing so well that they will sell it.

As I said, it was introduced by the former Progressive Conservative government. That was one of the programs the member for Wonderland was speaking about a moment ago—I am sorry, the member for London South. It is very close to Wonderland. When she was speaking, she asked what the Conservative government had done. The SBDC program is one of the things, a small part. That was the Conservative government. As well, the health care system we enjoy in Ontario today was started by a Conservative government. They are doing their best over there to destroy it right now.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I thought it was Judy LaMarsh.

Mr. Gregory: I am sorry, it was started by the Ontario government as far as Ontario is concerned. There was nothing mandatory about it. The minister knows that. The federal Liberal government encouraged us to start it, but then promptly withdrew any funding on it and left it up to Ontario. We have been doing very well, thank you very much. However, the new, dynamic, open government is trying to destroy this in its present dealings with doctors.

Another item, a small thing that the previous government started, was workers' compensation. That is not something new. It did not come about as a result of a New Democratic government—Lord knows there has not been one of those in Ontario for a lot of years, if ever—and it certainly was not started by a Liberal government. It was started by a Conservative government.

The highway system in Ontario came to be, for the most part, under Leslie Frost, the great Conservative Premier. He began the highway system as we now know it in Ontario.

Interestingly, nowhere in this throne speech is there any mention of transportation and communications or of money going to transportation and communications. They just vanished from the face of the earth. That is not too hard to understand, because in the last Liberal budget \$34 million was ripped out of the transportation and communications budget, notwithstanding that an additional \$23 million in revenues came in through gas taxes, fees, automobile registra-

tions and fuel taxes. Despite that increase in revenues, they lopped \$34 million off the transportation and communications budget. Obviously, this government does not care one whit about transportation, particularly highways, in Ontario. That system is something the previous Conservative government began and developed to one of the finest highway systems in the world. It is going to be destroyed.

5:20 p.m.

I was interested in the point made by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations the other day. When asked whether the government should be reducing gas taxes, he said: "No; people are not too worried about paying gas taxes. They want the roads the taxes will build." That is an interesting statement, considering the fact that there are no new initiatives in the throne speech for highway construction or anything else. Where is this money going?

Mr. Callahan: There is no election coming up. That is when the members opposite did it.

Mr. Gregory: I am just dying for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) to get back from his trip out to Expo because—

Mr. Callahan: All our roads got fixed when we were going to have an election.

Mr. Gregory: I must be getting somewhere because the member for Brampton is interjecting. I am sorry. I did not mean to rattle the member's cage, but if it is feeding time, we will see what can be done about it.

I am very interested in that comment. I know that minister is very honest in his approach to his job. He has stated he does not think there should be tax reductions on gas, fuel or anything else because the people want to maintain the road system. I assume that also means building the road system, but are we ever going to see it?

I can only hope in the upcoming budget the minister will be more successful than he has been so far in convincing the Treasurer. I regret the Treasurer is not here at the moment because he is usually a very good audience and his heckles are at least intelligent for the most part. I am sorry he is not here.

Mr. Callahan: The Leader of the Opposition spoke and left.

Mr. Ferraro: The member will only get intelligent heckles when he says something intelligent.

Mr. Mancini: As a matter of fact, the whole Conservative front bench is gone.

Mr. Cureatz: I am here.

Mr. Gregory: The important people are here. They know when I am speaking that they can depend on the fact that I have it under control.

Mr. Cureatz: They are going to read Hansard tonight.

Mr. Mancini: The three most important members of the Conservative caucus are right behind the member; all three of them.

Mr. Gregory: They are here. That is right. Yes, the member for Mississauga North is here.

Mrs. Marland: Not north.

Mr. Gregory: Sorry. The member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) is here. The member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) is missing. He is not here. I do not know where he is. When I am going to be talking about Mississauga, the member for Mississauga North is notably absent. He probably has a lot to worry about in that riding. I expect he is going to be quite busy retaining it, especially in its new configuration, which I congratulate him on, by the way.

The social assistance program started with a Conservative government; no other kind. It did not start with a federal Liberal government, but with a provincial Conservative government. For the member for London South, I am just going over some of the things the Conservative government did provide. She said we did not do anything. The members opposite continually say we did not do anything for 42 years. I was just going over the list, which might go on for a long time because it is quite a list of accomplishments.

Another thing we started was something called the Urban Transportation Development Corp. Members will recall UTDC. The Conservative government, under Bill Davis, began this program. That has developed a very high degree of technology that is being sold all over the world today.

Mr. Callahan: And the president wanted to sell it, the members opposite wanted to keep it.

Mr. Gregory: Do I have to—

The Deputy Speaker: Pay no attention to the interjections.

Mr. Gregory: I do not normally pay attention to that particular member, sir, but he has such a loud voice. I understand he got himself into a little bit of trouble with it a little earlier on. I want to protect him from himself.

Mr. Callahan: All I said was Davis was supporting our York East—

Mr. Gregory: I heard what you said.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gregory: As I mentioned, I just want to protect the member from himself. I know he gets carried away. He is not always in control with his interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the member will address the chair and that will discourage interjections.

Mr. Gregory: I was on the subject of UTDC. At this very moment, the Premier is out in Vancouver for a test run for the pavilion, no doubt to take some bows and kudos on the light rail transit system—they call it the Skytrain out there. No doubt he is taking a ride on it and taking the applause of the crowds when they say what a wonderful system it is.

I bet he is not saying, “We are going to sell this.” As a matter of fact, that is not entirely correct. He is giving it away; he is not selling it.

An hon. member: We believe in free enterprise.

Mr. Gregory: They certainly do. I have seen this in previous federal Liberal administrations. What do they say? “If you love the post office, you will like some of the other programs we have in mind.” People will be crazy about some of the other initiatives those Liberals have over there. I have seen their actions regarding free enterprise so far. If the future is going to be any worse, I can hardly wait. It will be quite interesting.

Mr. Speaker, I neglected to perform two traditional functions when beginning to speak on the throne speech debate. One is to congratulate you for having attained the honour of continuing on in your position as Deputy Speaker. I congratulate you. It is like a breath of fresh air because your decisions are always beyond question. As you know, I would never question your decisions at any time. I am delighted to see you there and I hope you will convey to the Speaker my personal congratulations to him. He is also very fair in his decisions.

I should also like to congratulate the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin), who impressed me as the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House, for continuing on in that function.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the new member, the member for York East (Ms. Hart). I congratulate her. As a matter of fact, when I was first elected in 1975, I was sitting in almost that very seat in which she is sitting. Things have gone somewhat downhill since then.

Mr. Ferraro: We had to get a new chair. We threw out the old one.

Mr. Gregory: I have not been sitting in it for eight or nine years, so somebody else was responsible for that. I think the past nine months of certain heavy Liberals sitting in it probably did some damage. I was not talking about the present member. She has been here only a few days. I did want to offer her my sincere congratulations. I wished it could have been different; I cannot lie about that. I worked reasonably hard to try to have another person elected, but since that was not to be, I join my colleagues in welcoming her to this House.

No doubt she is here with rose-coloured glasses on. They will soon disappear, I can assure her. Sooner or later, she will be wearing dark glasses, like the member for—Where is Fast Eddie from?

Mr. Barlow: Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Gregory: The member for Grey Bruce (Mr. Sargent). That is correct. I wish the new member much success, at least until the next election when we will certainly try to replace her. Now where was I?

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: She said, “Thanks but no thanks.”

Mr. Gregory: I do welcome her while she is here on a short sojourn. She will not be alone in disappearing from this House. A lot of people over there will disappear. She can take comfort in that.

Mr. Callahan: I think the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) is Alice.

Mr. Gregory: I think the member from Wonderland will make an excellent whip in opposition, so I hope she will stay on.

Ms. E. J. Smith: If we both can stay here that long.

Mr. Gregory: That is true. There is that possibility.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, shall we adjourn and leave these two alone?

An hon. member: I do not like this love-in taking place here.

Mr. Gregory: I am trying to be nice. I do not want the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) to walk out on me.

Mr. Breagh: I get the feeling we are intruding on a very private affair.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member would again address the chair.

Mr. Gregory: I do not want the member for Oshawa walking out on me; so I am trying to be very nice.

An hon. member: The member should be himself.

Mr. Gregory: Be myself? I knew I had something here I wanted to talk about. All right, wait a minute now.

I want to get back to business. I do not know whether you are aware of it, and you can look at this—I saw one of those on the car. On the back seat of a car, there was something like that. It was Margaret Campbell—forget Margaret Campbell.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I do not know what the member is referring to. I am waiting for him to say something. I am encouraging him.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Gregory: The member's seatmate is heckling me. She is using body language and heckling me.

Mr. Breaugh: I think we had all better leave now.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: Is this the throne debate?

Mr. Gregory: Yes. I am just an animal at times like this. Back to business.

Mr. Breaugh: I think the member for Mississauga East is rattling the cage from inside.

Mr. Gregory: I listened again to the remarks of the member for London South, pertinent to the throne speech, of course. She made the Liberal Party seem like a legend in its own mind.

Mr. Callahan: The member should come on down and get his seat back.

Mr. Gregory: The member obviously missed that. I think Hansard is going to pick it up whereas the member missed it. I am used to the member missing things, so it does not matter.

I want to comment on the thrust of the throne speech relative to business. I do not know whether the government members are aware of it or not, or whether they are just hiding from the fact, but business is mad at them. Business does not like this government and business is expressing that every day. It does not like what this government is doing to it. Business people are saying that if they want to start a small business, they should buy a big one and wait, because this Liberal government is going to destroy all business in Ontario if it keeps listening to the crew over here. It is well on its way.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I think the member has been listening to Conrad Black.

Mr. Gregory: The accord will come back to haunt this government because it is being suckered in to some of these programs that in its heart of hearts it does not believe in.

Mr. Breaugh: Like medicare.

Mr. Gregory: I can listen to what the member for London South said about thanking the New Democratic Party for putting through all this legislation in which she totally believes. She should look around her at some of the other members in her party. They do not believe in it. They are voting party line.

It will be interesting to hear the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) comment in private on some of these things. We do not have to go any further than the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson), who is a little more honest than most. He has expressed his particular opinion about one program this government has, but it was nice that the whip could get him to leave before the vote.

Ms. E. J. Smith: These are Liberal policies we ran on.

Mr. Gregory: It is a good job. I congratulate the member as whip that she was able to get him to take a walk when it came to a crucial vote.

Mr. Callahan: A lot of people were missing from the member's party when we voted on certain items too.

Mr. Gregory: There are no votes going on right now. I would not say that the member for Brampton has all the numbers in the world over there right now. The government party has 12 people out of 49 here, and the member is criticizing us. Let us face it. The world does not stay here to hear my speech, and the members are beginning to realize why. I do not expect them to.

Mr. Callahan: It has probably flipped to As the World Turns by now, I would imagine.

Mr. Gregory: Obviously, the member is here by choice, so he must appreciate what I am saying. I think it important to recognize that the business community is not really with this government. The business community is hurting.

Mr. Mancini: It was never really that bad.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: Send the member a red tie.

Mr. Gregory: A red tie?

The Liberal Party seems to be working very hard. It has been working overtime.

[Applause]

Mr. Gregory: One can always find something to applaud if one wants to continue to take things out of context. If that makes members opposite happy, then applaud that statement. The government is working very hard in trying to discredit all the Conservative initiatives that took place in the past. It is disguising things. It talks about the

great new Liberal initiative, the program it has for high technology, this so-called \$1 billion.

I heard the Liberal whip talk about the \$1 billion going there. Talk realities. It is not \$1 billion; it is \$500 million of new money. Spread over 10 years, it is \$50 million a year. This government is not going to set the world on fire in that business for that kind of money. It can talk about \$1 billion if it wants to, but it really is not. The fact of the matter is it is not as much as was provided under the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program. Why does this government not call its new program Son of BILD-SOB? That would be great.

Ms. E. J. Smith: The member can have it.

Mr. Ferraro: The member should watch his language. He is in the House.

Mr. Gregory: Son of BILD. That is a good name for it because that is all it is. It is not nearly as good as BILD was; it is too limited in its scope. The government can dress it up all it wants and have the Lieutenant Governor come and read about this bold Liberal initiative. It boils down to \$50 million a year over 10 years for a program that is trying to help us to compete with people such as the Japanese and the Germans. Let us get serious.

The small business development corporations program is a Conservative program that the Liberals are trying to make appear new. It is not. There is less in the SBDC program today than there was a year and a half ago. The Liberals have taken money out of it and have not expanded it. They have expanded it by giving it a new name and saying it is going give—what do they call it?

Mr. South: A bigger bang for a buck.

[Interruption]

Hon. Ms. Caplan: That baby crying is an appropriate comment.

Mr. Breaugh: The member is frightening children.

Mr. Gregory: We can see that even babies do not like that party over there, and I agree.

Mr. Breaugh: This is your worst performance.

Mr. Gregory: That child is going to do well. She or he is discerning already.

The throne speech talks about—I cannot find it—some business initiatives and the SBDC program. Whatever that means, I am quite sure there is nobody over there—

Mr. Warner: That is a new one, frightening babies.

Mr. Gregory: The member for Brampton is frightening the baby. Consider the fondness the previous member for Brampton had for children and that children had for him, and the current member for Brampton scares babies and makes them cry. I find that totally disgusting.

Mr. Callahan: No, it is what you are saying. This child knows what you are saying.

Mr. Gregory: The member may not like this, but I am having a lot of fun. The members should stick around; it gets worse.

Mr. Breaugh: That is apparent.

Mr. Gregory: I had not intended to speak this long. If it had not been for the interjections and inane chatter from that side of the House, with the occasional even more stupid remark, I would have been finished sooner. However, I will keep talking as long as they want to keep rattling me.

I want to speak about some of the local problems. As is traditional, most members touch on their riding for a moment. That is permissible in a throne speech debate, as I understand; we can speak on almost anything. Is that right, Mr. Speaker?

I will preface every remark I make with the words “throne speech.” Throne speech, transit problem: There is a problem or going to be a problem with transit in Metropolitan Toronto and its neighbouring areas. There has been some talk at the Metro level about two corridors for a subway system or rapid transit system. I am of the very strong opinion that the Eglinton Avenue corridor will best service areas such as northern Toronto, Brampton—where my good and faithful friend who makes babies cry is from—Mississauga, Pearson International Airport, which is totally in Mississauga, and Halton. A transit line along Eglinton Avenue would more readily service those areas, as well as Metro Toronto, than any other corridor.

I urge members of the government party to do whatever they can to encourage Metro to make this happen. We have to. We have to think in terms of there being life beyond the Metro border, because there is. From some of the remarks we hear from time to time, particularly in the local press, we tend to think life stops beyond Metro, but there are other communities. One of the larger of those is Peel region immediately to the west, where there are half a million people. Where did I hear that figure before? This is people as opposed to half a million dollars.

5:40 p.m.

By the year 2000, the growth in Peel has the potential of well over a million. We have to stop thinking that rapid transit belongs only in Metro and think in terms of the surrounding community.

If we go to the east, we have Durham, which has the same sort of problem. We are going to have to think along the same lines. I will continue to press for the Eglinton route and I hope some of the members on the government side will be very supportive of this position.

I attended a rather interesting meeting the other night at the York municipal offices. There were presentations from people who are interested in this subject. A rather interesting history of the background of Eglinton Avenue was presented by Mrs. McDowell, who is a teacher in York. I commend this history to all members. As a matter of fact, in a state of generosity, I may supply each member of the House with a history of this road and the razzle-dazzle that has gone on in various councils in the Toronto area over this road. First it was supposed to be one way; then it was supposed to be another way.

The position is that sooner or later we are going to have to take that bull by the horns and go with it. I know I can count on the member for Brampton, who will support me as he supports me in all things.

Mr. Callahan: The jury is instructed to forget that second part.

Mr. Ferraro: He is a supporter. So is a joystick.

Mr. Gregory: Whatever the member wants to call him. They were his words, not mine.

Mr. Callahan: I will support the first part.

Mr. Gregory: However the member wants, it is okay with me.

On housing, Peel region and Mississauga primarily—and I will include Brampton in that for the benefit of my friend—what was it the member called him again?—are where it is at as far as building is concerned. I do not think I am going to get too many arguments on that. Housing is going up as fast as they can approve it, but it is not going up fast enough. We have a couple of problems. There is no question that mortgages are a problem, as are getting such things as severances and plans of subdivisions approved. All these things naturally delay building.

We do have one problem there that is quite a phenomenon today. That is the preselling of houses before they are even in the ground and then an unconscionable delay in the closing dates on these houses. This leaves many people hung

out to dry. They buy a house and the builder tells them it will be ready in three months. A year and three months later, they might get it if they are lucky.

Mr. Haggerty: That practice has been going on for years in Ontario. Is the member just waking up to it now?

Mr. Gregory: I just woke the member up now. I had not heard a thing from him. He is usually going pretty good about now.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gregory: This practice has not been going on for years to the extent it is going on right now. It has become much more prevalent. There was a time when one could wait an extra two weeks for the closing on a house—I am talking about a new house—but with the advent, which is a fairly recent phenomenon, of selling from a plan rather than from an actual house, this has been accentuated. Even the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) will admit that, although he does not have the kind of development down in Erie that we have where we are.

Mr. Haggerty: We have the same problem down there.

Mr. Gregory: The same problem, but smaller scale. That is right. I expect he does not really want to take issue with the point I am making because he agrees with it. He may want to find fault with why it is so. All I am suggesting to members of the government is that this is an issue they may want to do something about.

Mr. Haggerty: They do it by municipal bylaw.

Mr. Gregory: I do not believe they can, as a matter of fact. I understand the municipalities must have provincial legislation to enable them to do this, and I do not think they have it now. If it could be done by municipal bylaw, Mississauga would have done it already.

Mr. Callahan: Hazel McCallion would have.

Mr. Gregory: They are not exactly asleep at the switch. If the member thinks they are, I will send Hazel McCallion in to argue with him personally. Notice how he quietened down?

It certainly is a problem, and I like to think the government will try to do something about it. There is very definitely a lack of construction on rental units. We are hearing a great deal about social housing, rent-geared-to-income housing and co-operative housing, but there is another facet that we have to consider, that is, the ordinary market rental units. Everybody cannot qualify for subsidized housing, nor would

everybody want to. Everybody does not want a co-op apartment. Some people just want to be able to rent an apartment. There is a real problem there.

We heard from the Minister of Housing, if one could discern some answer out of the things he said today. It was very difficult to find out what he was really saying. I do not see a good housing policy on that side of the House at present.

I sincerely wish the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) were the Minister of Housing. I am not trying to be condescending. I say that from the standpoint that the member for Waterloo North was elected in 1975 at the same time as I. He has had 10 years' experience, and frankly, he knows what he is talking about, even though I may not agree with him all the time. In an area where things are as crucial as they are today, it is unfortunate that we have a new member as Minister of Housing who really does not know what he is talking about and who has no concrete plan for what he is doing.

Mr. Breaght: The member can tell him now.

Mr. Gregory: The Minister of Housing has just entered.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Say it now.

Mr. Gregory: I will say it now. With greatest personal respect, I sincerely wish the member for Waterloo North were the Minister of Housing.

Interjection.

Mr. Gregory: Does the minister want to hear what I have to say or does he want to argue with me? With greatest personal respect, I sincerely believe the Minister of Housing is in over his head. I do not believe this program he has will really accomplish anything. Virtually since the last budget, he has been telling us, "Wait for it." He has been telling us about these grand negotiations that are going on which will produce all these wonderful things. That is virtually what he said today. I have not seen it. I talked to some of the people on the so-called consultative committee he has and they are not greatly excited either.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I have approved some already.

Mr. Gregory: The minister is talking again. I appreciate the fact that he approved some low-cost housing, co-op housing or whatever. It was rent-gear-to-income; that is correct. I wish the minister had been here earlier. I covered those things. I am talking about the free market rental system. Does the minister remember what that used to be? There is such a thing as a free market rental system.

Mr. Ferraro: Is that why the Tories brought in rent controls in 1975?

Mr. Gregory: Before the member for Wellington South has a hernia, I am not commenting on rent controls.

Mr. Ferraro: The member is talking about the free market system.

Mr. Gregory: I am using the words "free market system."

Mr. Breaght: The socialists brought in rent controls.

Mr. Gregory: Would the member like to wait to hear what I am saying? I am talking about the free market rental system to clarify, in the minister's mind, the difference between that and the subsidized rental system. I am talking about renting an apartment that is not subsidized by somebody, except for rent controls of course, in which the taxpayer or somebody subsidizes it. I want to see some new initiatives that will work to start building—

Mr. Mancini: More government intervention.

Mr. Gregory: No. Assistance is a lot different from intervention.

Mr. Mancini: What about rent controls? Is the member in favour of them? Yes or no on rent control.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Gregory: I am not into rent controls at the moment. I have not even mentioned rent controls. It is the Liberals who mentioned rent controls. If they are unhappy with rent controls, they should speak to the Premier or the Minister of Housing.

Mr. Barlow: Did the member compliment the Speaker?

Mr. Gregory: I did.

Mr. Speaker, you can appreciate I am working under the greatest of hardships with the heckling that is coming from across the way.

The Acting Speaker: Please proceed with your speech.

Mr. Gregory: I have lost my place. I will have to go back and start again.

I was trying to make a subtle distinction between subsidized rental and private rental. We know there is a market and there is definitely a need for private rental properties. I am trying to encourage somebody on that side of the House to do something, to encourage, to force, whatever. The government is very heavy-handed when it comes to doctors. It is going to take away their right to extra bill. Perhaps the Liberals can be

equally heavy-handed with the developers, most of whom they appear to know from their cocktail parties at \$1,000 a plate. Perhaps the government can convince some of the developers, using the same heavy-handedness it is using on doctors, and force them to build rental accommodation. The government does not mind tackling the doctors; so it should go ahead with the developers. The Liberals know some of them. I am sure they would be willing to co-operate, in their red ties. Obviously, I am not getting anywhere with the Minister of Housing, but that is not surprising because nobody got anywhere with him today.

I would like to go on to something that is totally noncontroversial, that is, redistribution. I am not going to criticize it. I am totally content with the new plan for redistribution as it applies to my riding. I am not saying that in any way to say it should go forward, because other ridings are not so happy about it. Something unique happened in the debate on redistribution between the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) and myself. Although we are on opposite sides of the House, we agreed totally. That does not happen very often in this Legislature. Lo and behold, at least as far as our ridings are concerned, we both seem to be satisfied. I will not presume to speak for my colleague, the member for Mississauga North, who is also affected by this change, but I think she is also reasonably happy about it.

Mr. Barlow: She is the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland).

Mr. Gregory: Mississauga South. I am facing the wrong way. The member is behind me. Usually, I am facing north.

I want to express to this House that in this instance alone I am totally satisfied with the findings of the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission. If any of its members read this speech in Hansard—if anybody ever does—they will see that at least one member of the House is reasonably satisfied with the findings the commission has come up with in its recommendations.

Having said all those very important things, I do not want to get into too much more. Certainly, I do not want even to border on being controversial. I think the speech goes downhill from here. Rather than be controversial, and while the Liberal and New Democratic members are totally in agreement with what I have said, I will take my leave.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

Mr. Breagh: I have a couple of comments because I am afraid the member for Mississauga East was not terribly clear from time to time about his intentions. Was the member attempting to slander the Transit Man of the Year and resurrect the Spadina Expressway? I felt the member was trying to say that in his comments about transportation, but for some reason the clarity was not there. I really wondered about that.

There is a second point to which I would like the member to respond. It is well known around here that the member has been totally opposed to rent controls since they were initiated. Has he weasled out of that position yet?

Mr. Gregory: Well, I—

Mr. McClellan: He has to wait.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mancini: I would like to make some comments on the speech we just heard. I was quite surprised at the nostalgia in the member's speech. He went all the way back to Leslie Frost to talk about the good old days of the Conservative Party. That is one of the main problems the Conservative Party faces today. It keeps looking backward instead of forward. It looks to the past instead of the future, to which a progressive government must lead its people.

We know the policy and position of the member's party in regard to the doctors' dispute. His party's position on the matter of extra billing was enunciated very clearly by his leader, who appeared before the committee and said he did not necessarily favour extra billing, but if anyone who visits a doctor's office wishes to tip his doctor or leave a sum of money, he should be free to do so. His party wants members of the general public to go into a doctor's office when they have to and leave a tip for their doctor.

The third matter I wish to address is the member's point on business, that this government has been unfriendly to business. That is not true. Many of my colleagues are bringing forward ideas as they deal with business. As a matter of fact this government has a small business committee—

The Acting Speaker: Your time is over.

Mr. Mancini:—which a number of parliamentary assistants work on.

Mr. McClellan: I want to address a couple of questions to my honourable friend. The main theme of his speech was similar to that of his leader, which is that the throne speech was so bad because so much of it had been stolen from the

Conservative Party. That seemed to be the message.

Mr. Breaugh: That was not the message. That was the theme.

Mr. McClellan: I must have misunderstood the message. Certainly, the message that is coming through is that it was so bad because it was so Conservative.

My friend is from a rapidly developing suburban area and knows a lot about the real estate market and the housing business. He is a senior member of the Conservative Party and a former cabinet minister. When he speaks on housing issues, we have to be very attentive to what he says. He talked about a wish to go back to the untrammelled free market in the housing sector. Does he mean his party is opposed to Ontario being back in the home-building business after six or seven years without a Ministry of Housing? Is it his position that Ontario should go back to the good old days when there was no Ministry of Housing and no housing development program?

My other question is, why will he not be candid and tell us what he really thinks about rent control? Most of us know what he really thinks. He hates and despises rent control. He is and always has been opposed to it. This is his opportunity to stand up and get it off his chest.

Mr. Callahan: I have been sitting here listening attentively and I find it very interesting. I know the job of the opposition is to oppose. Yet the Leader of the Opposition, who is not here—he may be out on the links or the basketball court: I do not know—says, and this is what my friend raised before, that everything in the throne speech has been grabbed from the past.

6 p.m.

Did the Conservatives not support what their former Premiers recommended over the past 42 years? I suggest to them that they did because I recall it was reported in the press. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program is really a Leslie Frost budget speech that was taken out of the refrigerator and brought forward. If that is what their government did, how can they possibly stand there and object to the fact that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) looked into the past, said that maybe they were not bad ideas, and then brought them forward.

I am not suggesting he did that, but whether or not he did does not matter. That is leadership. Leadership is defined as the best possible ideas whether they be from the past, the present or the future. I suggest the member take that back to his

leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, and find out what his score was in the hoop game.

Mr. Gregory: I am going to be totally honest and I am going to answer these questions.

Mr. Breaugh: They cannot throw him out of cabinet now.

Mr. Gregory: The member is going to have to listen to them. I have only two minutes.

I will answer these questions in the order of their importance. This will put Brampton right down at the end. In answer to Spadina, I favour the position on Spadina that this government has had all the way along. I did not even mention Spadina at any point. I did mention Eglinton.

On rent controls, the position of this government has not changed since we brought in rent controls in 1975. The only changes in it are deteriorations that are taking place right now. I do not agree with what was done on extending rent controls to buildings built since 1976. I think it was counter-productive.

The member asked the question and ran. I do not blame him after that question. The member said I was trying to live in history. I am not. My reference to Leslie Frost was that the major part of the highway system, as we know it today in Ontario, began under Leslie Frost. I am very proud of that. It is being destroyed now with what is happening here.

I do not agree with extra billing. I do not agree with the interference in the business of a doctor. It is counter-productive. With the number of doctors who are extra billing and the small amount that is being extra billed, I think the government is destroying the system. We saw one sample about one important doctor who has already left. I know he said it was not the fault of extra billing, but that is counter to the statements he made a few months past.

Mr. Callahan: He was lying when he told us that.

Mr. Gregory: Does the member want to hear the answer? I know he wants to argue with me. He asked me whether I agree with extra billing. I said, "Yes, I do."

On business, I disagree with my friend, the member for Essex South. I do not agree that the Liberal government has been very helpful to small business, but I do not blame the Liberal government; I blame its puppets over here.

Mr. Warner: I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this throne speech debate. I must say at the outset that, along with all members of the House, I have come very quickly to appreciate our new Lieutenant Governor and the

manner in which he discharges his duties. He strikes me as being a very warm and sincere person who is attempting to fulfil very fully and very energetically the role he is occupying. He is off to an excellent start.

I confess, however, that I felt very sorry for him on the day on which he was asked to deliver the speech from the throne. I felt very sorry for him because I listened very carefully and intently to the speech, I went home and I thought about what I had heard. I re-read the speech the next day in case I had missed something and I came to the conclusion that the speech from the throne can best be characterized as being akin to trying to eat a bowl of jello with snowmobile mitts on. Just when you think you have something solid, it all goes to mush. Does that not characterize that speech?

It was very disappointing. There were some generalities. In the next few days, the members of the government attempted to apologize weakly for the speech. They said it is part of the tradition, part of the pomp and ceremony, and that no one should expect to find specifics in a throne speech. It is just part of the tradition of Ontario, so we really should not expect too much of throne speeches.

I am sorry; the Liberal government is not going to get off the hook that easily. Throne speeches are important and they should contain specifics. They are supposed to signal to the population in which direction the government is moving and what specific things it will seek to accomplish. It is very disappointing. If we reflect back a year, we had an election in this province, the result of which produced a momentum for change. We now know, looking back exactly 12 months tomorrow, the majority of the people of Ontario wanted change. Two parties sat down and between them forged an accord which set out certain conditions.

I do not wish to be provocative with my remarks, as I normally am not. The items set out in the accord were entirely items of the New Democratic Party to which the Liberal Party agreed. What probably has been forgotten is that there were many more items on the table than those to which the Liberal Party agreed. In total, and I stand to be corrected on the numbers, we put 108 items on the table and the Liberals agreed to approximately 37 of those. We fashioned the document, the accord itself. We put out those items which we felt were of importance to the people of Ontario, items on which we had campaigned during the election—they were not

surprise items—and they included some substantial changes.

The most current one, about which most of us are concerned, is extra billing. We have campaigned on the question of extra billing for many years. This is not a new issue to us and it is not a new issue to the people of Ontario. It is new for the government. One need not be an expert in reading Hansard to recall that various members of the Liberal caucus, including the current leader, have spoken on various occasions in favour of extra billing. The common phrase used during that time was that it was a "safety valve." I do not think I am mistaken. The term used by the Premier when he sat in opposition was it was a "safety valve." However, the Liberal Party realized it had made a mistake. They misunderstood the people of Ontario, they misread the public and perhaps they even misunderstood the depth of the problem.

Perhaps they did not realize the people in this province shell out \$1 million per week from their pockets in extra billing. Perhaps they did not realize the number of senior citizens every year who are vulnerable to extra billing by doctors. For many people, there is no choice. It is fine for some folks living in Metropolitan Toronto, but for those who live in smaller communities, if one or two doctors are opted out, it poses a very serious problem for many people. Those people become dependent on individual doctors and they are very vulnerable to extra billing.

6:10 p.m.

Some doctors make no bones about it. They say: "I bill everyone. I do not care about their finances and I want the cash up front." You have heard the horror stories, Mr. Speaker, no doubt from your own riding, as have I and other members in the assembly. We are frustrated by that kind of action. We are horrified by that kind of treatment of people. We have decided to do something about it. What troubles me, frankly, is what I see unfolding is that the Liberal government is stalling. It is dragging its feet on the issue of extra billing. The resolve of this party is unshakable. If the Liberals have any notion of backtracking on this issue, we will fight them tooth and nail. They should make no mistake about it.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: We are clear and firm.

Mr. Warner: If the government wants to go to the people on this one, it should go right ahead.

Mr. Callahan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not see a quorum in the House. There is one Conservative and four New Democrats;

the balance are Liberals. However, there is only one Conservative in the House, and I am bringing this to your attention.

The Deputy Speaker: Fine, thank you. I am sorry. You said that is a point of order, but it is not a point of order.

Mr. Warner: I do not get sidetracked easily. There are a number of issues with which I want to deal. They are items that were mentioned in passing in the speech from the throne and they are items that were left out, unfortunately. Before I get into that, there are a couple of items I think are important, which I wish to mention in general.

All of us have gained respect for the Lieutenant Governor as he has assumed his new duties. The same can be said of the honourable member whom we have chosen to be the Speaker in our Legislature. The member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) serves us well and continues to do an excellent job. I am very impressed with how he is conducting question period. Back-bench members are getting more questions on, and there is a greater opportunity for them to participate. That can only be of benefit to the Legislature. It is certainly in part the result of the new rules; it is also in part the result of the excellent leadership of our Speaker. Similarly, the Deputy Speaker and the Acting Speaker, so chosen by the House, are serving us extremely well.

I do not think any of us around here could function well and at our best if it were not for the staff of this building. Whenever any of us wishes to prepare bills for presentation or to participate fully in debates, the people we rely on are the people who work in the legislative library, the research department and the legislative counsel, and those who serve us in the chamber. These people, with their abilities and expertise, quite often make us look good, perhaps even better than what we really are. They do an excellent job.

In general, I find the staff around the building, whether the maintenance crew or the people in the dining room, go out of their way to make the lives of the members easier. I appreciate it very much. They have a difficult job at times, but they are always quite cheerful and they serve us extremely well.

Also, at the last of my congratulatory notes, I would like to mention—

Mr. Breaugh: Why did you not include the Sergeant at Arms?

Mr. Warner: Occasionally, the Sergeant at Arms is very frightening because of the sword; however, he is an honourable gentleman who

does his job exceedingly well. I discovered that he has a great deal more authority around this place than I had dreamt. He is a man who helps to keep this place functioning well. He is not just a symbol.

I wish to mention my own staff, because I have come to realize that they are the people who solve the problems daily, both in the riding office and here at Queen's Park. For many constituents, they are the first voices heard on the telephone, though not always, because when I am in the office I like to answer the telephone myself. However, much of the time we are here in the chamber or in committee. In particular, I want to pay special tribute to my staff members: David Lee; Kaarina Luoma; Eileen Chalk, who works here at Queen's Park; Penny Gerie, researcher; and part-timer Costas who has done a great job.

If I can turn for a moment to a number of items, what disturbs me quite deeply is the approach and the serious problems we have confronting senior citizens. I say that with some background. The previous government decided that institutionalization was fine. It decided, however, that there could be other answers and that we would study them. It then began a continuous series of studies with no results.

The present government has been in power for almost a year and has chosen almost the same path—the white paper. I say that with the greatest of respect to my colleague the member for London North, the Minister without Portfolio, who has a very sincere attitude about senior citizens and is trying to understand how we can present a better situation.

During the last campaign, I decided that if I were returned here, I would do something about the horrible situation we have. The more I read about the programs and the services available to seniors in other countries, the more ashamed I became of what we have not done in Ontario. That became confirmed with me the deeper I dug into the research. Fortunately for me, and I hope for others, I was returned here on May 2.

The next week, I went to the legislative library and spoke with the research director and started doing some research. As you know, Mr. Speaker, our party had a task force, and out of that task force came a superb document, *Ageing with Dignity*. That document contained a number of recommendations. I expanded on that. I did research, which included looking at the approach of 26 different countries to senior citizens, and I was absolutely astounded at how many things were available in other countries, primarily in

western European countries, which we had not thought of here.

6:20 p.m.

Let me take one small example, which struck me as being simple, inexpensive and so humane. In the remote part of Norway where there are tiny villages—not unlike parts of northern Ontario where there are small villages—one small town had half a dozen senior citizens living in their own homes who required some minimal assistance, someone to come in once a week to help with some cleaning, to prepare a meal occasionally or to do a bit of maintenance. The town was so small that it did not make economic sense, among other considerations, to put in a centre. The government hired a couple who lived in the village. Their job was to provide the needed services to the other six couples, who were senior citizens living in that village. Imagine such a simple, inexpensive approach to help those people stay out of an institution.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Did you see the Norwegian government was defeated this week.

Mr. Warner: I did not know that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: And the senior citizens got beer in the process.

Mr. Warner: I am sure that has nothing to do with me.

Mr. McClellan: If they had not, the socialists would have won.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It was a socialist government.

Mr. Warner: That is right. To the Treasurer, I am not suggesting for a moment the socialists have all the answers. It may be sheer coincidence that the very best programs for seniors exist in socialist countries. Fortunately, in Sweden, which has some of the most advanced programs for seniors anywhere in the world, on the one occasion in the last 50 years when the socialist government was replaced by the Conservatives, every one of those programs was kept intact. There was not a Tory who would dare to dismantle those programs.

A couple of things became very clear to me through research. Institutionalization is the worst route to go socially and it is the most expensive route to go. Those two messages are very clear from research. No matter which country one looks at to approach the situation, I take the first concern to be the most important, and that is socially. Whenever seniors have the opportunity to remain in their familiar surroundings and to remain active, participating in society, they live longer and they feel better.

Based on the work I did, which took some six months I went about drafting a bill. Yesterday I had the privilege of introducing that bill in the House. In approximately three weeks, I will have the privilege of debating it. It disturbs me that I alone, as an individual, did that in less than a year. The message about the problems of seniors has been around for a long time and we have not seen one piece of legislation. That disturbs me.

I do not understand the reluctance to move. I will say it now—and I very much appreciate that the minister is present—I will say it again when my bill comes up and I say it unabashedly, I am offering him the bill. He can take the bill, remove my name from it, put the government's stamp on it and reintroduce it. I want the thing made into law. I will tell him why, among other things. I am not going to go through the whole bill, but I will give a little snippet of what is possible. The short title of this bill is the Seniors' Independence Act. I think that is important. The big formal title—everyone has to have formal titles for these things around here—is An Act for the Provision and Integration of Community-based Services for Seniors. I prefer to call it the Seniors' Independence Act.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Several copies of that were mailed to my constituency. I appreciate that very much.

Mr. Warner: The Treasurer is welcome. I am pleased that he received them. I hope he will read them carefully.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I did not get one.

Mr. Warner: Among other things, here are the services which can and should be provided to seniors: Individual evaluation and counselling; social, recreational and exercise programs; meal programs; medical, health, psychological and dental services, including referrals and follow-up programs; educational programs, including but not limited to preventive medical and dental counselling; nutritional counselling; financial counselling; information referral programs referring to local community programs; interpretation services; full-time or part-time day care on a regular basis and occasional and emergency day care; home help programs; assistance in the performance of routine tasks away from the senior's home; daily contact by telephone or in person; transportation services to encourage the senior's independence; regular assistance from adult protective service workers; arrangements for care in day hospitals; temporary care provided, where possible, in the senior's home or at a community health and social services centre, to provide respite for the family members or other

individuals who have assumed responsibility for the care of a senior without remuneration; counselling and other assistance for the family members and other individuals; a prescribed support service, with dental care.

That is a beginning, and it should be triggered by one phone call. I am proposing that the government, in addition to accepting this bill, institute a line across the province, 1-800-SENIORS. No matter where the senior citizen lives, he or she can pick up the phone and call that line. The senior makes one phone call and does not have to worry about the bureaucracy. Let the bureaucracy worry about itself. The senior makes the phone call and someone will attend to precisely the needs the senior would like assistance on, so an institution will be a place of last resort.

Very respectfully, I am saying, please take the bill, put the minister's name on it, make it become law. I do not care if I never get a line of credit anywhere for it.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: The member knows I would never ignore him.

Mr. Warner: The minister has never ignored me in the past. If I can accomplish nothing else in whatever my career is here, I wish to accomplish one thing, that is, to provide the framework so older people can live a life of dignity. Too many seniors are denied that opportunity.

The time is drawing to a close for this afternoon. I will return, and when I do, I am going to talk about the other side of it, the nursing home situation. The minister knows very clearly about it because he and I at one time were seatmates up here, he on one side of the aisle and I on the other. We used to chat from time to time about a number of things. We talked about nursing homes. I have never seen a more disgusting situation in a so-called civilized society than what happens daily in many of our nursing homes.

I have one in my riding in particular. Quite frankly, if I had my way, that home would either be cleaned up inside of a couple of months or closed. I am sure many who have been around here for a while know about the home of which I speak, the Kennedy Lodge Nursing Home. Three times inside of six years that home has had the ownership transferred. It is simply an opportunity to make money. They then decided that the well-trained staff, who happened to be unionized, should all be thrown out on the street, and they were replaced at \$4 an hour.

Mrs. Marland: How long does it take the member to do something about it?

Mr. Warner: I am not the government.

Mrs. Marland: No, but you are the member.

Mr. Warner: Do not get me started. It is the incestuous relationship between the nursing homes inspection branch and the Ontario Nursing Home Association that is at the root of this problem.

The Deputy Speaker: I draw the honourable member's attention to the clock.

Mr. Warner: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Perhaps you would like to move adjournment of the debate.

On motion by Mr. Warner, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week, if I may.

On the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and on Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon next week, we will continue this debate. Routine proceedings will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 8. Through the agreement of the House leaders, the throne speech debate will conclude on Monday, May 12.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ERRATUM

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No. 8

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, May 5, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC





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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 5, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

HOUSING POLICY

Mr. Speaker: Last Thursday, May 1, the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) took exception to a statement by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), who said, "We are down to business in housing, unlike the past and his government, who were making many deals with individuals."

The member referred to it as a point of privilege; it is not. If anything, it is a point of order. As the minister made no specific accusation against any other member of the House, I find it hard to rule that the statement must be withdrawn. It was one of those general innuendoes which would be much better left unsaid as they tend to lead to disorder.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PALLIATIVE CARE

Mr. Cousens: I would like to take this opportunity to address the very sensitive issue of palliative care, commonly referred to as "care for the dying." Many members of this House know that recently our party, under the auspices of the task force on human and social services of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), released a discussion pamphlet dealing with palliative care. In this document, we have proposed that immediate measures be taken to reorient and co-ordinate health care services to include the preference of the terminally ill patient. Whether that preference be the home environment, a hospital bed or respite care in a hospice, there should exist a choice. At present, the choice is virtually nonexistent, and 95 per cent of all palliative care is administered in a hospital setting.

In order to provide for the needs of the dying, we have suggested several concrete proposals that are not only cost-effective, but sensitive to the desires of the dying. These proposals include a reduction in the number of patients who are forced to die in an institutional setting; that moneys saved with this measure be applied to community-based palliative care services for

people dying at home; implementation of a firm funding structure for palliative care providers, so as to introduce regional plans and reduce inefficiency; and, finally, education for health care professionals in the techniques of pain management, symptom control and bereavement counselling.

On behalf of my party, I am proud to say that care for the dying is an important priority, and we do care.

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. Ramsay: I rise again on another parochial matter, Mondays being those days for me. I draw the attention of the House to Landmarks magazine. To the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio): it is a good magazine, Vince, but there is an article there about provincial parks and how accessible they are. All of them seem to cut off at North Bay and go the other way. The magazine mentions Marten River, but the text refers to Marten River Provincial Park being on Highway 69, just north of North Bay. That is Highway 11, my stomping grounds.

Vince, you wonder why we feel paranoid up in the north. We are overlooked all the time, and then the government publication overlooks us. We have many provincial parks right on the highway, and this article makes the point about accessibility. We would like to have that brought to the attention of the rest of the province. We are in the tourism business and we would rather not be overlooked; but it is a good magazine. Keep it up. Get the highways and the maps right and carry on.

Mr. Speaker: I remind all honourable members when they refer to another member to do so by the riding or ministry.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. Ferraro: This is not the new Liberal emblem, even though the Tories feel they have been hit by a lightning bolt. What I proudly hold is the insignia of the Guelph Holody Platers, who as of last night are the Ontario Hockey League champions. It is with great pride that I stand here today and brag a little about my team, which over the season provided such excellent entertainment to the fans back home. They did so in a very

unbiased fashion. They took on all parts of Ontario, taking on worthy opponents from Sudbury, North Bay, Windsor and last night Belleville. Even though I am from Guelph and am partisan, I think it is in order for us to wish them all the best.

I have collected 10 bucks from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil), with whom incidentally I did not make a bet. Nevertheless, let me congratulate Joe Holody, the owner; Rob Holody, the general manager; Jacques Martin; and all the members of the Guelph Holody Platers, who are on their way to Portland to defend the province and, we hope, to bring the Memorial Cup home to Ontario.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Hennessy: I wish to make a few brief comments on a waferboard mill in Thunder Bay. One hundred and fifty people are out of work because Great Lakes Forest Products decided to close down the waferboard plant. Once again, the Liberal government has watched people lose their jobs without lifting a finger to help. The irony of their plight is that they lost their jobs on May Day, which is considered a big day for the workers.

Thunder Bay needs jobs. The Liberal government's neglect has let down the people of Thunder Bay again. First, there was the loss of jobs because of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. deal and now there is the waferboard mill. I understand the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has met with the mayor of Thunder Bay and the members of city council. I can only hope that the meeting was fruitful and that the Premier can assure the 150 people who lost their jobs that new employment opportunities will be made available.

EMERGENCY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Wildman: I rise to make some comments about the emergency shoreline management program. Despite the assurances of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) that the provincial government is extending the program to individual property owners in northern unorganized townships in the Great Lakes basin, ministry officials have informed me that applications from such property owners cannot be processed until the legislation has been amended by the Legislature.

It is imperative that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre) and the provincial government introduce the necessary amendment

immediately and that its passage be expedited by the House to ensure that applications from northern property owners can be processed while sufficient funds remain available and before the assistance has been completely dispersed to applicants in southern Ontario.

I implore the House to move as quickly as possible on this amendment, to have it introduced as soon as possible and the House leaders to co-operate to expedite its passage.

MISSISSAUGA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr. Offer: It is a pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to the winner of the Mississauga Citizen of the Year award, Mrs. Velma Kennedy, who was honoured yesterday at a special ceremony when she received the Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Award for community service. Velma Kennedy is 70 years old, a mother, grandmother and a long-time city resident. She has devoted a good deal of her time to helping various community groups.

Velma Kennedy represents the most important individual in this province, the person who always finds time to help and contribute to others. Throughout many regions of this province, there are other persons who demonstrate the commitment of people such as Velma Kennedy. They provide the backbone, the inner strength, the spirit of this province. During a period when the world is undergoing a series of crises, it is refreshing to be able to report that the residents of Mississauga have again taken the time to recognize one of their outstanding citizens.

OSTOMY SUPPLIES

Mr. McLean: One of the main concerns I have is with health care in Ontario. I have been concerned for quite some time about the policies of this government. There should be more security for our senior citizens and for people who need services such as the ostomy program.

In my estimation, the government is not living up to the commitments it has made to the people of this province with regard to health care. Would the minister explain to the people of Ontario why we are the only province in Canada where ostomy supplies are not completely covered under the provincial health care plan?

Recently, coverage of this cost was changed to assist those up to the age of 21. This is covered by the Ontario health insurance plan under the assistive devices program. I had asked the minister to try to make complete coverage available to all those who need such assistance.

The Canadian Cancer Society spent almost \$3.75 million on ostomy supplies for cancer patients in 1983. That cost is increasing year by year.

I am aware that there are advisory committees dealing with this matter and would like to know whether any changes are anticipated in the near future.

2:12 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

FAMILY MONTH

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: I have the pleasant responsibility today of officially proclaiming May as Family Month. The goal of this special month remains to provide a common time for all Ontarians to focus on the importance of the family. Family Month helps all of us to acknowledge that the family is the fundamental social unit which forms our communities and provides our province with its special identity.

In 1986, the Family Month theme is "Every Family is Unique." This theme encourages all of us to reflect on the wide variety of family formations which prevail in our heterogeneous and multicultural society. In accordance with this theme, I have invited several families to attend the announcement of Family Month. These families come from a variety of backgrounds and symbolically represent the unique quality and importance of all Ontario families.

Our families evolve as ongoing responses to our individual abilities for communicating affection, understanding and care. Our potential for exchanging mutual support establishes the character and contributions of every family. Although there is not a common description of what a family looks like, we can all recognize and appreciate the family's universal importance. Many of us feel that family relationships call forth our need to give and receive commitment. The family also can enable us to experience the deepest level of human potential, a sense of personal interconnectedness.

During Family Month, all of us are encouraged to recognize these special qualities of our own families and strengthen family ties; further appreciate and honour the variety of family formations and values which friends, neighbours and other members of our communities have created; and affirm the contribution of Ontario's families as a common resource which enables all of us to participate more fully in building stronger communities and achieving our desired quality of life.

During the month of May, many of the members of this Legislature will have opportunities to speak at and participate in community activities. During these events, I encourage members to acknowledge the importance of the family and to request that all in attendance affirm and participate in the goals of Family Month.

Mr. Rae: I want to comment on the statement made by the Minister without Portfolio about Family Month and to say that it is astonishing to us that a minister of the crown in 1986 would make a comment about Family Month without talking about the realities of family life with respect to the need for a decent child care program or the need for us to provide the kinds of support that are integral to what the modern family is all about. The minister failed also to make any reference at all to the fact that there are a great many women in particular who are living in poverty because of low wages, poor working conditions and difficulties of organizing.

There is no reference to the reality of the modern family. What the minister is reflecting today is a very Victorian, old-fashioned approach with respect to the modern family, which surprises me given that this is May 1986.

ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

Hon. Ms. Caplan: I am pleased to inform the honourable members of the substantial progress that has been made in the current negotiation of salary agreements with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. For the first time since 1982, settlements have been reached in direct negotiations with the union without arbitration or any form of third-party participation.

A strong factor in this success has been the co-operative response of the union representatives to this government's approach to employee relations. As the members are aware, we place great emphasis on human resources management which, I believe, is reflected in the current negotiations.

Agreements have been reached in five of the nine categories under review and these have been ratified by the 23,500 employees concerned. The categories are administrative services, maintenance services, general operational services, technical services and scientific and professional services.

These contracts are effective from January 1, 1986, to December 31, 1986, with increases for the employees in the five categories averaging 4.23 per cent. In addition, adjustments have been

made to provide equity in certain classifications, involving mostly female workers, which will result in a total average cost of 4.49 per cent of current payroll.

Negotiations are under way on agreements for the correctional services, institutional care and office of administration category and instructors at the Ontario Police College. I look forward to reporting to the members as we continue to achieve progress.

Mr. Gillies: The chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet made a statement to the House about the adjustments being made to public service wages. First of all, we are very pleased the negotiations are going as well as they are. Buried in that statement is the rather startling fact that 0.26 of one per cent of the increased funding going to our public servants is going for the purposes of pay equity. I am sure the minister will agree with me that is not a particularly startling figure or one of which the government should be overly proud. Again it points to the need for broad public sector pay equity in this province. Our party will be moving amendments to expand the government's pay equity bill to the very broadest public sector.

I say to the minister, during the recession when the government saw fit to restrain public sector wages, her government supported that measure. Now that the time is here to extend a benefit to those workers, why will she not support that initiative?

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Curling: As the members of this House are no doubt aware, there is an urgent need to preserve the existing supply of rental housing in many areas of our province, and to protect the security of tenants in this accommodation. The crisis we are facing today is the result of many years of inadequate rental supply programs and an insensitive rent review policy. We are now in the process of addressing those problems.

Last December, I announced a comprehensive series of initiatives to create a new supply of housing, to restore the quality of existing accommodation and to reform the rent review system. In my December statement, I also indicated that this government would be taking a strong stand against efforts to remove sound, affordable rental housing through conversion, demolition and other such measures.

At the same time, my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre) indicated his concern about these activities, which have

contributed to the severe depletion of affordable rental housing in this province, particularly in our larger urban centres.

The government has expended considerable time, effort and resources to increase the supply of rental housing. At the same time, it is necessary to take measures to ensure the preservation of the rental stock now in existence. That is why I am introducing today the Rental Housing Protection Act, which will apply to all rental housing stock in municipalities having a population of more than 25,000 and those smaller municipalities which may be designated as having a rental housing shortage.

The legislation will not apply to residential complexes of six units or fewer; however, in all municipalities, municipal approval will be required prior to conversion of a rental property to a condominium, regardless of size. This legislation will be in effect for 24 months.

Under this act, a proponent of a conversion or demolition of a residential rental building will apply to the local municipal council, which will review the application and decide whether the application should be approved or rejected. Any person will have the right to appeal the decision of the municipal council to the Ontario Municipal Board. The OMB will then hold a hearing and make a decision on the appeal, and that decision may be appealed by petitioning the Lieutenant Governor in Council. This legislation will result in stricter and more extended controls for a two-year period, which will ensure the protection of Ontario's valuable rental housing stock.

The new legislation will authorize regulations to allow the approval of an application to convert or demolish a building under the following conditions: (1) where the proponent has provided satisfactory accommodation for the current tenants and has provided new rental housing stock at the same price in the same market area; (2) where it is demonstrated that the proposal does not adversely affect the availability of affordable rental housing; or (3) where, in the case of a demolition permit, a building is found to be unsafe.

This two-year time span will also provide the government with an opportunity to reassess the rental housing market and determine the approach most appropriate for preserving Ontario's rental housing stock.

Moreover, I wish to draw attention to the matter of severances, which enable the conversion of rental town houses to individual ownership. This is a practice already requiring municipal approval, and my colleague the Minister of

Municipal Affairs will be commenting on this matter shortly.

We recognize that some proposals to convert or demolish rental housing are currently under way, and I would like to comment on those now.

This legislation will allow projects which have obtained all required permits to continue. Proposals which have not been approved, however, cannot proceed without proper approval.

This means that following royal assent:

If a condominium conversion proposal for an existing rental building has not been draft approved or has not received a commitment for exemption from approval, it may not proceed without approval.

Where an owner proposes to demolish a building now rented or to renovate so extensively as to require that the unit be permanently vacated, it is only where the necessary building or demolition permits have already been issued that the demolition or renovation may take place without approval.

No notices of eviction may be served on existing tenants because of demolitions, renovations or conversions, except as approved by the municipality. If all permits have been obtained, however, notices may be served in the future. The act will also prevent a court from ordering that tenants be evicted for these purposes unless all permits have been obtained.

The offering for sale or sale of any interest in a proposed co-operative or other common ownership housing venture, other than a nonprofit co-operative, is also prohibited unless approval is given to the transaction.

If any conversions or other actions described are attempted without approval, a purchaser will obtain no interest in the land, and the parties to such transactions will be liable for financial penalty.

In the days ahead, together with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I will continue to consult with municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. As well, I will continue to consult with landlord and tenant groups on ways to best implement this legislation.

I am confident that the Rental Housing Protection Act will enable us to accomplish a crucial goal: to preserve Ontario's valuable stock of rental housing.

The initiatives we have taken today are but one small part of the Assured Housing for Ontario policy announced in December. We will continue to move forward on all aspects of this policy, ensuring effective protection for tenants, just

treatment for landlords and action to meet essential housing needs.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I am pleased to endorse the announcement which has been made by my colleague the Minister of Housing.

Our government has pledged from the outset to reverse decades of neglect in the rental housing field. In recent months, programs have been brought forward to increase the supply of rental accommodation, landlords and tenants have been brought together to reach a consensus on a system of rent review, and the groundwork has been laid for the builders to build once again.

Today our government moves forward again with measures to protect the supply of rental housing and the security of tenants.

As Minister of Municipal Affairs, I strongly support the key role that our municipal governments must play in this vital area.

All applications for the conversion or demolition of rental residential buildings will be considered by the local municipal council. Each municipality has a vital concern with the health of its rental housing market.

One additional activity that can contribute to the reduction in rental housing is the splitting of linked complexes of more than six units such as town house developments and other forms of row housing into individual ownerships through the land severance process under the Planning Act.

Municipalities have the power to approve land severances, so today I am requesting that all municipalities subject such applications to especially rigorous evaluation during the next two years. This applies to municipalities with a population of more than 25,000 and any other municipality where a critical shortage of rental housing exists.

During this period, my ministry will review any proposed consent approval creating individual ownerships to determine whether the public interest is being served.

Furthermore, I have today withdrawn the delegated authority from the 12 municipalities now exercising approval of condominium conversion. This action is being taken to facilitate the implementation of the new procedures under the Rental Housing Protection Act.

I am pleased to support the Minister of Housing in his initiatives, and I am confident the measures we have taken today respond to the urgency of the current rental housing situation.

Mr. Gordon: I have listened very carefully to the statements by the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and I think they should hang their heads in shame. It is obvious

that over the past 10 months—and they should remember 10 months have gone by—they have created a lot of confusion by the announcements they have made, particularly in regard to rent controls.

The private sector does not know whether it should go ahead and build. It reached the point where landlords started demolishing their apartments from within rather than merely renovating. We are at a point in this province right now where there are virtually no rental apartments being built. Take a look at the Renterprise program, which promises more than 5,000 units. Where are those units? The government has barely scratched the surface.

Now we get this piece of legislation which promises us studies. The government is going to study the matter for two years. That hardly sounds like a decisive government or a decisive ministry. When I look at this statement, the Minister of Housing says, "In my December statement, I also indicated that this government would be taking a strong stand against efforts to remove sound, affordable rental housing through conversion, demolition and other such measures." Then the minister stood back to the point where we had elderly women in this House because they were being evicted. The minister is not doing anything for them; they are gone. I do not see how the minister can feel he has done something decisive.

He continues, "The government has expended considerable time, effort and resources to increase the supply of rental housing." We do not see that rental housing; it is not happening out there. What we have instead is a major crisis in Toronto over condo conversions, and the minister has to take some responsibility for that.

Looking at page 4, a great deal of our housing stock in this province has fewer than six units. What does the minister hold out to these people? He says, "The legislation will not apply to residential complexes of six units or less; however, in all municipalities, municipal approval will be required prior to conversion of a rental property to a condominium, regardless of size."

The fact is that this government has determined it is going to decide whether there is going to be rental housing in this province and whether there are going to be conversions in this province. It is obvious that the municipalities are going to turn around and look to the government, which is going to be running the whole business from Queen's Park through order in council,

through the cabinet. That hardly seems to me to be a way to decentralize the powers in Ontario.

This is one more step in Peterson's Ontario. We have seen it before. We have seen how the government handled the doctors, the pharmacists and the solicitors. This is the way they are now going to handle the housing situation. When are they going to get on with building more housing in this province? That is what the people of this province want to know.

Mr. Reville: Tenants in Ontario have been waiting too long for a government interested in protecting them. They waited on the Tories for 42 years. They have waited on the Liberals for 10 months, and we still do not know whether tenants are going to be protected. We have 16 pages of words here. We will have to see whether these protections are real.

The Minister of Housing complained last Tuesday that I wanted the legislation to include everything and that I wanted it immediately. The minister is absolutely right. I do want it to include everything and I do want it immediately because the crisis in rental housing exists now. As long as any techniques exist that erode our rental housing stock, the government will have to be both vigilant and timely.

Until the government solves the problem of creating rental housing, we are going to be under increasing pressure. Rental housing is being lost at a rate far faster than it is being created. Each unit lost creates one or more casualties. We know, to our horror and to our shame, that people are being forced out of the housing market altogether. For some of those people, it is fatal. In Toronto alone, 16,000 units are under threat. If the government lets them go, it will be 10 years before we can replace them at the existing supply rate.

The 10-month delay has cost hundreds of tenants their housing. We do not know whether the Minister of Municipal Affairs is using empty words when he suggests that municipalities subject applications to rigorous evaluation. Of course they subject them to rigorous evaluation. Will the government wait until the last day in the two-year period to address its new policy on protection of rental stock so the demand is again pent up and so that municipal councils are subjected to the exercise the city of Toronto council has gone through. They debated the matter of Bretton Place for six hours on Thursday and are meeting again at three o'clock. What kind of provincial government is that?

Does the minister view the debate at Toronto city council as an exercise in a commitment for

approval that he mentions on page 8? If that is the case, then we lose Bretton Place. Has he left loopholes in this large enough to drive a bulldozer through?

New Democrats believe people should have control over their lives. Housing is absolutely central to that control. Housing must be decent, affordable and secure. We will continue our fight until every single person in Ontario has decent, secure, affordable housing. We call upon this government to join us in that fight.

VISITOR

Mr. Grossman: I know all members will join me in welcoming a very fine Ontarian, someone who distinguished herself admirably over the past few months. Gina Brannan is sitting in the first row of the east gallery; it is not quite the seat we had in mind.

2:36 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Premier. Does he agree that by way of a letter dated Friday, May 2, from the Ontario Medical Association, interestingly not to the Premier or to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) but to the government's chief negotiator, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the OMA has agreed—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We are a team.

Mr. Grossman: They know who is in charge.

The OMA has agreed that, should a negotiated agreement be available with the government, it would not extra bill senior citizens, people on Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance, general welfare assistance, unemployment insurance, disability pension, family benefits or vocational rehabilitation and any person requiring emergency treatment. Does the Premier not agree that, by way of that offer, it has well addressed the clustering phenomenon, which is the key problem to the extra billing question?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There is nothing new. The suggestions the OMA brought forward in that letter were the same it brought forward two, three, four, even six or eight months ago, and this government does not accept them.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier has been saying he is making progress. It is quite clear that the OMA has made some concessions, whether it made them last Friday to the government's chief negotiator or previously. The OMA has now moved significantly and, in addition, has indicat-

ed in that same offer its willingness to discuss and try to resolve any other problems related to accessibility. Does the Premier not agree he has made some significant progress? The chief negotiator has now succeeded in reducing a large portion of the clustering phenomenon. Does that not mean the Premier ought to continue serious negotiations with the OMA instead of giving it the back of his hand?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There is nothing new in this. It was discussed six or eight months ago. The government does not accept it. We hope there will be some other avenues of forward progress, but we do not consider these suggestions to be forward progress.

Mr. Grossman: Last week the Minister of Health, in response to a suggestion offered by the New Democrats, said he would approach the OMA to ask it to suspend all extra billing while the discussions continue. Therefore, I have a suggestion for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker: Is it by way of supplementary?

Mr. Grossman: Yes. Will the Premier now approach the OMA and say very reasonably that if it will immediately suspend extra billing the people it has offered to stop extra billing, he will suspend pushing through Bill 94, perhaps until the end of this year, so that reasonable discussions can take place with a view to averting a strike as soon as Thursday of this week?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I consider myself to be a very reasonable man. Obviously, the member would like us to do nothing in this matter. Our friends in the New Democratic Party would like us to have moved yesterday. We believe we are conducting these discussions in a way that is conducive to some kind of settlement. I am not sure how many times we have discussed this in the House, but in my view the member's suggestions today are not constructive in moving this forward. There is nothing new in his idea. He is asking us to back off, and the answer is we are not going to back off.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier is bound and determined to have a health care strike because he seeks a political victory instead of looking after health care in this province.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Minister of Health, such as he still is. We understand the minister has been preoccupied of late, carrying the briefcase and briefing materials

of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). Today in Sarnia, there are 94 people who have waited 114 days for a chronic care bed. In Sudbury, there are 100 people who will have to wait six to nine months. In Barrie, there is a shortage of 112 nursing home beds. We know the minister will brush this off by saying he inherited the situation, but he also knows he has had one year in which to address this problem.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Grossman: What has the minister done specifically in this year to alleviate that shortage?

Hon. Mr. Elston: My friend the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, who was at one time Minister of Health, asks what was done and says nothing was done. We are moving to address the needs he has set out so well. In the speech from the throne, we indicated there will be long-term planning with respect to capital needs for construction in this province. We are moving ahead to make provision for the needs that have been identified throughout the province by such groups as district health councils and health care providers, including nursing home operators.

Mr. Grossman: Apart from the planning to which the minister just referred, apart from the white paper on which the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mr. Van Horne) is still working and which still has not seen the light of day—I might add we were able to write a better white paper ourselves and do it more quickly than he has been able to do in a year—and apart from appointing Liberals to district health councils, will the minister explain specifically what he has done in the one year to alleviate these bed shortages? The people in Sarnia and Sudbury want to know what he has done to alleviate the shortages.

Hon. Mr. Elston: It is quite appropriate that this former minister asks me what we have done. He used to speak about taking pressure off demands on the institutional sector by introducing community services. We have already done things such as that in the 10 months I have been Minister of Health. For instance, we have put together a chiropody program that will help people to become more independent and more able to stay in the community. We have finally introduced and put into place the frail elderly program, which takes pressure off the institutional groups the member set out.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), who announced the frail elderly program, with the co-operation of the Minister of Health, who will be administering

it, has done a great deal to advance the cause of keeping people in the community where they would like to be. Those are a couple of examples of what we have done.

In addition to that, we have attended various functions, for instance, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia, where we are well on the way to doing the planning that is required to put up buildings to house some of those chronic care needs in that area.

Mr. Grossman: We know the minister has been to lots of receptions and functions.

Let me quote the Provincial Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). In Brantford last week, he told the Kiwanis Club that when the Liberals were in opposition, they used to ask, "What is the delay?" He said tongue in cheek, "Now that we are in government, we say we are doing it as quickly as we can."

My question to the Minister of Health, reflecting the Liberal policy as outlined by the Treasurer, is this: Will the minister specify how much his boss, the chief negotiator, offered the Ontario Medical Association out of the \$53 million recovered from the federal government under Bill 94 in order to pay physicians who ought to be earning more, more than they are currently being paid, and in order to establish a special fund to attract and retain world-class physicians?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Obviously, the former minister does not understand the negotiating process about which he used to wax so eloquent. That fellow across the way used to tell us: "Do not worry. It is in negotiations, and it would not be helpful to talk about negotiations in this forum."

We are carrying on negotiations in earnest. I can tell the former minister, the former Treasurer, who has very little to do but reflect now upon his former self, that we are moving ahead with plans to provide the necessary support services for the people of this province. We are working within our budget. As a former minister, he should not be concerned with the fact that we are going to run short, because we will provide services for our people. We have done that. We have expanded community services. We will expand the institutional services. He should not worry. As a former Treasurer, the member will be very happy with the way the Treasurer and I—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. Can the Premier tell us whether the Minister of

Health (Mr. Elston) kept the promise he gave us last week? Was a specific request for a moratorium made to the doctors in the discussions on Friday night?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I honestly cannot answer that. I will refer that to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The request that was made here was relayed to the group, with whom we met on Friday evening. Although I do not think the exact words in reply would be appropriate for this forum, I was able to assess a very strong rejection of that request.

Mr. Rae: Given that fact, which I do not think comes as a shock to anyone in this assembly, and given the nature of the proposal made by the OMA on Friday night, of which I think either the minister himself or one of his assistants said in coming out of the meeting, "It is a rehash of proposals that were made four months ago," which is precisely the warning we have been giving the minister and the government with respect to that issue for the last four months, when are the cows finally going to come home? When is the minister going to seize the nettle, get on with this bill and stop allowing himself to be jerked around in these discussions?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman will well realize, as I have said, that we have made progress. I felt the written proposal or position paper was just that: a position paper that reflected the situation as it had been several weeks ago. I felt it was a regression during the negotiations. I can tell the honourable members here and the people of the province that the expectations for our next meeting will be that there will be real and new proposals brought forward.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister indicated that the doctors very strongly rejected the idea of even a moratorium on extra billing. What leads the minister to believe, as of today and as of last Friday's meeting, that there is any possibility of negotiating an end to extra billing in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The position of this party has always been that negotiations on this item will be very difficult. That does not mean we will throw up our hands in despair. We will go the extra mile, as it were, to make sure we have canvassed every opportunity. We can tell the honourable member, as the critic for his party, which has been very consistent on this matter, that extra billing will be ended. It is a little more difficult to pick up consistency there, but we are committed to ending extra billing.

Mr. Rae: When, oh Lord, when?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It will be very soon.

Mr. Hennessy: Here is the Lord.

Mr. Rae: I was not asking the Premier. I know it is going well, but it is not going that well.

DARLINGTON NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. Rae: I want to ask the Premier a question about Darlington. In January 1984, he was quoted as saying that construction on the gigantic nuclear power station would be stopped in its multibillion-dollar tracks if the Liberals are elected.

We have questioned the Premier with respect to this project several times since the House has come back. The select committee on energy has made its recommendation with respect to a six-month moratorium on contracts for the third and fourth units at Darlington. Since the election, the government has spent at least \$3 million a day on Darlington. What is the premier going to do to make a decision with respect to a project that Ontarians feel more and more is a colossal waste of money?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I recall the history of this matter very well, as does my friend opposite. I have spoken about this many times, going back almost a decade. I know he has done his research properly and he will be aware of the things I have said in the last year or two with respect to that. I said at the beginning I would not have built it. That being said, at a certain point it becomes less costly to proceed than to scrap the project.

The member will be aware that some \$7 billion has been invested. Those interest payments are ongoing. This is no different from what I said during the campaign and prior to the campaign. I know he will want to check the record on that. Generally, he has pretty good research over there. He should check it out. That is the kind of situation we are in.

The cabinet is reviewing the matter and the minister is reviewing the matter. It is an extraordinarily complicated one with respect to the amount of money that has already been committed. Our job here, like so many other jobs, is to minimize the loss and optimize the opportunities for the taxpayers of this province.

Mr. Rae: To the same exalted gentleman, on June 30, 1985, \$3.5 billion was spent and committed, not \$7 billion. On October 30, 1985, \$4.6 billion was spent and committed, not \$7 billion. Those are the facts. Between June 30 and October 30, \$1 billion was spent and committed. We do not yet have the latest update from Ontario

Hydro, but we know it is very extensive because it has been spending money like crazy to get in before any decision is made.

Why has the Premier let this matter drift for 10 months? He has failed to make a decision with respect to the recommendation made by the select committee last December, although his Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) said we will have a decision very soon. Why has he failed utterly to make any decision with respect to Darlington when it is costing us \$3 million a day, an expenditure that may be unnecessary if he has the courage to make the decision that needs to be made in this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend will be aware that when a capital dollar—any dollar, for that matter—is spent in this province, because we are deficit financing, those interest costs run in perpetuity. Those are the realities. That money has all been borrowed in New York. If we cut it off tomorrow, I hope he would not want to give the impression that we are going to save all that money, because we will end up for a very long time in the future paying that interest.

If one is writing that off against a capital asset that is actually generating revenue, then it is a different situation, and that is all calculated as a factor. What one has to calculate, when one puts cost figures on it, is the interest that will run for ever against Ontario Hydro's capacity to borrow and charge consumers. What the member is asking for, in a very simple sense in that scenario, is dramatically higher hydro rates, and he is the first who likes low hydro rates, in order to pay for the long term. Those are some of the economic realities of this situation this government has to take into account, and we are.

Mr. Rae: The Premier is spouting the Hydro line hook, line and sinker, which is completely different from what he said when he was in opposition. The conversion has been total with respect to this issue. Does the Premier not recognize that, as a result of his decision, Ontario Hydro is going to be going from 40 per cent dependent upon nuclear power to 70 per cent dependent on nuclear power? That is something which is in his hands to change. He is in the position to do something about that. Is he standing in his place today and saying he wants Ontario to be 70 per cent dependent upon nuclear power by 1990? That is specifically the path he is now taking the province down.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: In fairness, the member would want to acknowledge that a number of initiatives have been taken by this government with respect to Ontario Hydro. There is the

encouragement of cogeneration, of small-scale hydro development and others in northern Ontario that we believe in the long term—one has to be fair—are new departures for Ontario Hydro and will have an impact on the generation mix.

We inherited situations on which I think we have made an impact already. Particularly with a corporation of this scale, because of the long-term planning and the long time frame in which decisions have to be made, the member will see the results of our new influence in the years to come.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Jackson: I have a question of the Premier. I was delighted to hear in the last question that he asked the House to please be fair. On Thursday last, the member for York North (Mr. Sorbara) advised us he would extend the closing dates for the Ontario public service internship program for his ministries because he was able to determine they were selectively posted. In the interest of fairness, can the Premier please tell us whether he has now ordered the rest of his ministers to follow that minister's lead with their internship program postings?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer is I have no idea what the member is talking about. I have not ordered anybody to do anything. I never do that.

Mr. Jackson: If the Premier was not listening in the House during the two times I raised the question, perhaps he might refresh himself with Hansard. Specifically, I had raised questions about the fact there were selective postings for approximately 120 highly sought after positions with this government for post-secondary graduate students in Ontario. I even cited four or five cases of postings that were going to close late last week. I further advised the Premier that his Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) had four positions which were selectively posted to Toronto post-secondary institutions, including his former employer, Seneca College.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Jackson: Will the Premier please investigate these practices of selective posting for positions in the specific case which has been brought to his attention and any other specific case within any of his ministries and report back to this House?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Now that the member has brought this matter to my attention, I will investigate. Is he suggesting there is some sort of unfairness in this? It would bother me a great deal if that was the case. I will be happy to take his

suggestion under advisement, if there is any substance to it.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Minister of Labour regarding the fatality at the Stanleigh mine in Elliot Lake. René Perron died because of a malfunctioning pass gate at Stanleigh mine in Elliot Lake on September 4, 1985. Is the minister aware that four times in the month prior to René Perron's death he reported the malfunctioning gate, the gate that caused his death, to his supervisor? When is the minister going to get serious about the enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and ensure that equipment that is deficient is repaired quickly?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I was not aware of the facts that the honourable member raises in this specific instance. I share with him his sadness that these matters did not get rectified, but I want tell him that we have already taken action.

As of November, and I think the plan is now well into effect, orders are to be written rather than avoided. The member is also aware, because I shared with him the new orders policy, that compliance dates are required for all orders. Orders are no longer reissued, which is a very important change.

I assume the two changes, ensuring that orders are written the first time and that the compliance dates are attached to every order, will begin to solve those kinds of problems and make sure those kinds of tragedies do not recur.

Mr. Martel: Members of Local 5417, the United Steelworkers of America have asked that the investigation report by the Ministry of Labour be provided to them. That request has been denied. Can the minister tell me why that report was denied to the Steelworkers and, more important, why his ministry is not laying charges against Rio Algom for that fatality?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I cannot give the member any information today as to why the results of the investigation were not shared with the Steelworkers local, nor can I tell him why a prosecution has not been commenced. I will look into the matter and get back to the member tomorrow.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Jackson: My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Last Monday the minister stated that his government fully supported the auto pact, and last month the Premier (Mr. Peterson) also stated, "Ontario

must force more intellectual rigour in this auto pact debate."

Will the minister please advise this House of his position in all talks with the federal government with regard to ensuring that the Canadian value added ratio is maintained in free trade talks to help secure long-term auto parts manufacturing jobs, or is it his government's position to ensure that only production ratios are maintained, enabling Japanese and Korean manufacturers to flood our markets with imported auto parts and putting thousands of Ontario workers out of jobs?

Mr. Speaker: Minister.

Mr. Jackson: Which position does his ministry support?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: We have made it very clear in the trade talks with the federal government concerning that matter, and it has always been our position, that we want to have the parts manufacturers or people coming from other countries producing as much as they possibly can in this province, to provide jobs for our people in this province.

Mr. Jackson: "As much as they possibly can" is what the minister said. That is really tying things down for Ontario workers. In answer to previous questions, the minister has indicated he was not a party to negotiations with Toyota Canada when it tied down its plant in Cambridge. The minister is no doubt aware that since that agreement, the president of Toyota Canada was quoted in the March 24 issue of Automotive News as saying: "The 60 per cent CVA is too high for Toyota. We cannot comply in the immediate future and it may take five years or longer because compliance is only a long-term goal."

If the minister received no guarantees in the first round—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member has already asked the question.

Mr. Jackson: With respect—

Mr. Speaker: About five more words and that is it. Make a question out of it quickly.

Mr. Jackson: I will make a question out of it. With respect to these negotiations with offshore manufacturers, what assurances do we have that offshore parts will not be brought into Ontario ensuring companies—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The honourable member should be aware that to participate in the auto

pact, these companies must reach that 60 per cent level. They have stated both to me and to the federal people that they intend to reach that level.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Pouliot: I have a question for the Premier. He will be aware that Darwin Smith, the chairman of Kimberly-Clark International, flew into the riding of Lake Nipigon last Saturday to make a startling announcement, an announcement that threatens the jobs of 2,000 people and the economic viability of towns such as Terrace Bay, Nakina and Longlac. While he was making the announcement, he said no additional money would be coming from the parent company in the United States. He further suggested very strongly that unless productivity is increased and costs are reduced—

Mr. Speaker: I suggest you ask a question.

Mr. Pouliot: Given the magnitude of the problem, surely the Premier is aware of the dilemma facing the people of the north. What is he going to do to stop American companies from deciding the future of northern companies?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very much aware of the situation the honourable member presents. He could easily place this in conjunction with a number of other very serious problems we face in northern Ontario at the moment. I do not mean to minimize them at all.

We are in contact with Kimberly-Clark. It has shared with us some of the problems it has shared with the member and people there publicly. It is a worrisome situation. I come today with no easy answers, but I can assure the member we are making the best efforts we possibly can to keep that mill going, now and in the long term.

Mr. Pouliot: With all due respect, I know the Premier is incapable of lying. I know that he has—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member place his supplementary immediately?

Mr. Pouliot: I simply ask the Premier to be more specific and to give us some sort of guarantee that the problems of the north will be addressed seriously, in an orderly fashion, so we will know soon where we are going in terms of economic prosperity and job guarantees.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is a top priority of this government. We are looking at all the options we have. I spent this morning talking to workers from Great Lakes Forest Products in Thunder Bay as well as the mayor and members of council. The minister is speaking today and

tomorrow with people in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa.

I wish I could wave a magic wand and tell the member I had the solutions to all these problems. We are attacking them one by one, as crises, and there are a number of them at the moment. In addition, we have made a major commitment to northern redevelopment and to broadening the economic base. We have discussed those in this House before.

It is a very worrisome situation in general and it has the full attention of this government.

SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES

Mr. Dean: I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. In view of his statement last November that he had given the Premier (Mr. Peterson) his report on services for senior citizens and that this report would be made public "in a month or two," can the minister give us now, some six months later, the date on which his long-awaited report will finally be made public?

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: The response is twofold. First, the report was given to the Premier in October. He and my cabinet colleagues reviewed it in complete detail. Having gone through the various committees of cabinet, the report has been put into the printing process. It is at the printers right now. The Premier will make the decision on the date as soon as it is available, but it will be very soon.

Mr. Dean: In view of that rather convoluted answer, will the minister tell us whether the six-month delay—maybe seven months if it was October—in releasing this report is a result of dissension within his party over the contents or simply that he could not persuade the Premier to look at it until now?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: On the contrary, the response in the first instance was not convoluted; it was very straightforward. Second, the Premier and my cabinet colleagues found the report so fascinating and found so many holes in the system left by the previous government that they and I determined to present a white paper that would provide a blueprint for curing the system. When the honourable member reads the report, I am sure he will agree this was time well spent.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Mr. Reville: My question is for the Minister of Housing. On Thursday last, my friend to my far right and I, asked him nine questions. It is

going to be much easier today because perhaps some of the answers are in this document. I have one simple question for the Minister of Housing: Has he stopped the conversion of Bretton Place?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The new announcement that is in place today will require Bretton Place to go through the process in the same way as any other such case.

Mr. Reville: What that means, I believe, is that Bretton Place will be converted, because what is happening right now at Toronto city council—and I am advised by some colleagues at city council that they have no messages from the minister—is that it is making a commitment for exemption. Is that the minister's understanding, and will he not move now to stop the conversion of Bretton Place?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thought the statement was quite emphatic enough to indicate our great concern for the loss of rental stock in this province. Having indicated we are that concerned, the process will be looking very seriously at situations such as Bretton Place. As my colleague has indicated, the Metro people no longer have the final approval; it will now come to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, where we will take the decision as to whether Bretton Place will be converted.

Mr. Gordon: Municipal councils currently have the power to stop conversions, do they not?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The municipalities have to make a recommendation to the region, or to Metro in this instance, for any approval or rejection.

Mr. Gordon: Again, do the municipalities not have the power to stop conversions, and specifically how does this change matters?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I will go much more slowly for the honourable member. At the moment, as he knows, the municipality does not have the final approval; it will have to refer that case to Metro. Municipalities do not have the final approval. That is what he asked me. No, they do not have that.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the minister responsible for women's issues. Concerning the matter of equal pay for the 98.5 per cent of working women who are not covered by the public sector equal pay bill, has drafting on a bill for equal pay for the rest begun?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The consulting task force that has been going across the province hopes to

conclude its hearings with a final round of hearings in Toronto, I think on May 15, at which time the Equal Pay Coalition and the Ontario Federation of Labour will make their submissions. At that time, we anticipate the hearings will be completed and the consultants will thereafter make a report. We hope to have that report as soon as possible. We then propose to meet with the union consulting committee and the management consulting committee and bring in our bill.

Ms. Gigantes: I asked a simple question and the minister did not answer it. Perhaps he will answer my supplementary. Has the drafting begun and does he feel any concern about cabinet understanding of the basic principles of equal pay legislation, given that the Premier's comments concerning the Wheel-Trans workers revealed his conviction that wage parity could operate to bring wages down to parity rather than up to parity?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The drafting has not begun. It would be wrong to begin the drafting until we have had a full consultative effort. As the honourable member knows, we have not yet heard the Equal Pay Coalition submission, which we hope to have on May 15.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Mr. Grossman: I want to try to sort out this housing situation with the Minister of Housing. The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) was making the point that municipalities, whether it be the region or the local municipality, have always had the power and right to stop condominium conversions. Where such a bylaw has passed, that has always been appealable to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Therefore, as we read his statement, the only thing he has added to the procedure is to allow for an appeal from the OMB to the cabinet of Ontario. Will he confirm our understanding of the sum and substance of his statement? Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Maybe I had better step through the process. I take the case that is before us, Bretton Place. It went before the neighbourhoods committee. They recommended their decision for approval to the municipality.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Curling: In that instance, it is referred to the region for final decision. I hope that clears up the question. This falls under the portfolio of the Minister of Municipal Affairs

(Mr. Grandmaitre). If there is any question, maybe he can clear it up.

Mr. Grossman: Once again I say to the Minister of Housing, municipalities, whether the senior tier or the junior tier, have always had the right by bylaw to stop conversions. That has always been appealable to the OMB. How does his announcement today change the process, other than to allow an appeal from the OMB to the cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The legislation will allow for any of the parties, tenants or landlords, to make a further appeal from the OMB to cabinet.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reville: This is a very painful process as we all sit here and watch the Minister of Housing learn how governments work. Can the minister tell us clearly, does the Rental Housing Protection Act take effect today or does it take effect when it receives royal assent? That is a simple question.

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Curling: The legislation we introduced is not retroactive. We are asking the member and his party and this party to proceed quickly in approving the legislation presented.

On the other question, if I understood the member properly, the Bretton Place situation would have to go through the process as would any other. As I said, after it leaves the city, it goes to the regional government. Because of our concern to protect the rental stock in this province, we will look at it very seriously.

Mr. Reville: I am astounded that the way to keep the cows in the barn is to throw the barn door wide open. Does the minister not realize that he has just kissed goodbye to 16,000 units?

Hon. Mr. Curling: That is not the case. Bretton Place will be seriously looked at to protect those units.

Mr. McCague: Can the Minister of Housing tell me to what region a municipality in Simcoe county would go to apply for approval?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I will refer that to the Minister of Municipal Affairs; I am not quite familiar with the region to which it would be referred.

Mr. Speaker: Is the minister asking the Minister of Municipal Affairs to respond?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Can the member repeat the question, please? I have a list of all the regional municipalities in front of me.

Mr. McCague: It is a rather easy question. To which region would a municipality in Simcoe county go for approval?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Under the old Planning Act of 1983, all regional municipalities had the power on conversions; now local councils will be making that decision, and that includes all regional municipalities.

Mr. McCague: Do the two ministers to whom I have had the privilege of speaking understand that Simcoe county is not a regional government? Will they together undertake to get me an answer to this very important issue?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I was trying correct what was said in the House before on the question. Regional municipalities had the power to prevent conversions, unlike what was said previously. This is what I was trying to correct.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question to the Premier. He is probably aware that the vagueness and lack of full candour by Algoma Steel Corp. has lead to serious concern and uncertainty in Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie. I know he wants his government to be clear and open with the public.

In that regard, can the Premier explain which deputy ministers form the committee that is visiting the Sault and Wawa this week; with whom they are meeting; the purpose of their meeting; and what they intend to tell the company and the municipalities with which they meet?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is my understanding that the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) and his deputy are in Sault Ste. Marie this afternoon and will be in Wawa tomorrow. A group of deputies is going from the ministries of Northern Development and Mines, Tourism and Recreation, Labour, and Industry, Trade and Technology. A variety of ministries are involved in the situation.

Obviously, we are concerned about the long-term viability of Algoma and the mine at Wawa, the impact on the railway and the great ripple effect throughout that entire area. I am not sure I have answered the honourable member's questions. We are very concerned about the viability and are willing to lend our offices to do what we can to keep up the employment and, at the same time, to broaden the economic base in the Sault Ste. Marie area.

Mr. Morin-Strom: More specifically, can the Premier give us an indication of what specific directions have been given to these deputy

ministers, as well as to the Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines, with regard to the government's intentions for northern Ontario? In particular, for the Sault Ste. Marie region, what specific economic actions does this government intend to take to ensure the economic growth and viability of that community?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Very specifically, we have announced in this House before the northern Ontario development fund, a bold, expanded initiative, as the member knows, to broaden the economic base. We have talked about things in the tourism area and about a lot of other individual programs that we believe will have some impact.

Obviously, the big issue is the survival and in what form of Algoma Steel. We do not have simple answers. We are working with the company and the union. There will be wide meetings on the situation. The seriousness of our view of the situation is being conveyed, and we are going to be working with all of the people there to find solutions. That is all I can tell the honourable member.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Mr. Grossman: I have a question of the Minister of Housing. On page 8 of his announcement, it says, "This legislation will allow projects which have obtained all required permits to continue." It then goes on to say, "This means that, following royal assent, if a condominium conversion proposal has not been draft approved or has not received a commitment for exemption from approval, it may not proceed without approval."

Can the minister indicate which approvals this refers to? It would seem to us that the approvals that Bretton Place requires will all have been obtained under this exemption clause prior to royal assent.

Hon. Mr. Curling: As an example, Bretton Place has not received draft approval at this stage.

Mr. Grossman: Since the legislation is being introduced only today, since Bretton Place's solicitors are pushing this very quickly and since the municipal council is dealing with this either today or next week—

An hon. member: Right now.

Mr. Grossman: Is it today? It is dealing with it this very day. Is the minister prepared today to acknowledge that there is a very great possibility that Bretton Place will receive all the draft

approvals and thus escape any of the protections offered in this document, which, after all, involve only an appeal to the cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The city may be discussing Bretton Place at the moment, as the member says; then it will be sent to Metro. As the member realizes, my colleague has just announced that this authority has been taken away from Metro; so the matter must come to the minister for final approval.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Swart: My question is of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I presume the minister knows that Eagle Transport, which was involved in the fiery accident that destroyed the James Snow Parkway overpass, had far from adequate liability insurance to cover the cost of replacing that overpass.

I ask the minister how he feels about the likelihood that the taxpayers of this province will have to pay much of the bill for replacing that overpass because he has been negligent in ensuring that there is an adequate insurance system in this province to cover something like this.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member raises a specific question. It is under current review. The determination of whether the coverage is adequate has not yet been made, and I am really not in a position to comment on it.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Swart: I wonder whether the minister realizes that Eagle Transport paid \$175,000 annually for its previous coverage of \$5 million from Royal Insurance. That was cancelled just prior to the accident with only a few days' notice, and the only alternative was for Eagle to get one fifth the coverage on one half the tractors for \$444,000, 2.5 times the rate, from his Facility Association.

Will the minister now admit that the Facility Association is in reality an association of his making to protect and benefit not the motorists or other insurers but the insurance companies, which can get a lot more revenue for less coverage? Will the minister be proposing some sensible alternative tomorrow to this ministerially endorsed insurance company ripoff?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member raises a couple of questions in his statement. He has referred to the fact that tomorrow we will be making public the report of the Slater committee. He will then have an opportunity to see what the recommendations are.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Mr. Grossman: I have another question for the Minister of Housing. The minister keeps talking about an appeal or a referral of the Bretton Place issue to Metro. Page 5 of his statement says, "Under this act, a proponent of a conversion or demolition of a residential rental building will apply to the local municipal council, which will review the application and decide whether the application should be approved or rejected." It makes no reference to appeal from the local to the regional government. It says, "Any person will have the right to appeal the decision of the municipal council to the Ontario Municipal Board." Can the minister explain to us the contradiction between what is on page 5 and his continuing insistence that this thing ends up at Metro?

Hon. Mr. Curling: May I again step this through with the honourable Leader of the Opposition? He is reading the new proposal, which says, "Any person will have the right to appeal the decision of the municipal council to the Ontario Municipal Board." The member is talking about the old proposal.

Mr. Grossman: Is it, therefore, the minister's opinion that the current situation is that when municipalities deal with or stop conversions, the decisions of the municipalities are not appealable to the OMB? Is that what the minister believes the current law to be?

Hon. Mr. Curling: My understanding is that at the moment, especially in a case such as that of Bretton Place, about which the member asks, when it goes to Metro—

Mr. Grossman: It does not go to Metro.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Under the old act, it is my understanding that this will go to Metro to be rubber-stamped. Under the new one we propose, it will go from the city to the Ontario Municipal Board.

INTERVENER FUNDING

Mrs. Grier: Last week I raised the question of intervener funding and was assured that a policy was in the works and that ad hoc approvals were being given in the interim. I would like to ask the Minister of the Environment whether this ad hocery will be extended to the citizens of Northumberland and Haldimand who oppose the enormous facility proposed by Consumers' Gas?

Mr. Andrewes: And Lincoln too.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Does the member for Lincoln have an additional question?

Mr. Andrewes: I am not allowed a supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He is not allowed that.

With regard to intervener funding, we do not use the term "ad hocery." We use "designated"—it is a better word—or "case-by-case basis." This is for those who did not take Latin.

The honourable member raises a very good question, a very interesting question, to which I will provide an answer in the not-too-distant future. When there are matters where a number of issues of great importance must be raised, such as the site to which she makes reference, it is essential that the people who make representations which are opposed to the proponent's have an opportunity to do so with some assurance that they will have some funding up front and not simply have to rely on funding that may come later on, although very often that is forthcoming.

To do this, we have to ensure that these people are aware of this funding. I assure the member there will be an announcement made in the very near future in this regard. I think the member will smile when she hears this announcement.

Mrs. Grier: If that is the minister's opinion, I do not know why he cannot just say yes or no to my question. Let me put it this way. Is the minister aware that the citizens in that area have already raised and spent a considerable amount of money in their fight for the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee and for legal advice? Is he aware that the citizens are the only ones in this hearing who are intervening on behalf of the environment? Is he aware that the hearing has already begun? Does he consider this David and Goliath struggle to be in the best interests of the environment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There were several questions involved in that. I could probably provide several answers, but I will try to be relatively brief, unaccustomed as I am. I like to give full answers to the member.

In answer to the question whether I believe there should be a so-called David and Goliath adversarial system, the member will know that we built a strong environmental component into the Ontario Energy Board hearing on this specific case. One of the reasons we did that was to allow the people in that area the opportunity to make effective representations. I recognize that this involves some expenditure of funds. For that reason, we have looked very carefully at the application and will be making an announcement very soon. I recognize the urgency of the situation.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Warner: I enter a petition on behalf of 261 residents of Scarborough:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

Mr. Morin: I enter a petition on behalf of 294 Ontario residents:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION ACT

Hon. Mr. Curling moved first reading of Bill 11, An Act respecting the Protection of Rental Housing.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Warner: I know the members will be disappointed to learn that I have only about 20 more minutes of contribution to make. Apparently, there are other members who wish to participate.

When I left off, I was discussing two sides of the issue about care for seniors. I went through the response I had prepared in some detail. I am quite surprised and rather shocked that the government with its huge bureaucracy and its power is unable to come up with a plan, while I as a single individual with no expertise in this area managed to put together a complex and all-encompassing piece of legislation in less than a year. That legislation is now before the House and is to be debated three weeks hence.

The flip side is the present care for seniors. The most glaring problem we face in Ontario remains the nursing homes.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the member, but I counted about 12 private conversations and I find it very difficult to hear the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. The honourable member has the floor.

Mr. Warner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that, but I realize my colleagues were all hurriedly trying to make alternative arrangements so they could sit here and listen to my speech.

The nursing home situation has become increasingly difficult over the years. Unfortunately, the previous government was quite content to allow abuses to occur and recur in many nursing homes without any redress of the problems. That simply is no good. It has to stop. Elderly people, like everyone else, deserve a life of dignity and they deserve to be treated properly. Many nursing homes are simply warehousing people; they are not providing the kind of loving and adequate care that is required.

I want to turn for a moment to a number of other areas which, as far as I am concerned, were left out of the throne speech, or at least they were just mentioned in passing with no specifics as to how the government intended to handle problems such as insurance, which my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has raised many times.

The insurance problems in this province continue to plague us. Car insurance has gotten completely out of hand; it has become totally ridiculous. The people in Ontario are far and away paying more than most people in the rest of the country, and there is no good reason for it. I have watched with interest how the people in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia over the past two years have received rebates on their premiums. I remind the members that premium levels in these provinces are already far below the levels in Ontario for the same coverage and they have been receiving rebates. Here in Ontario, drivers continue to see their premiums escalate.

In particular, the problems facing the under-25-year-olds, especially single males, are quite incredible. It is possible for such persons in this province to drive for seven years without an accident, with a clean record, and pay in the neighbourhood of \$2,500 a year. A person of the same age and situation with the same coverage and living in a similar community in any one of the three western provinces would pay in the neighbourhood of \$500 to \$600, versus the \$2,500 in Ontario.

Why? It is very simple. What the western provinces base their insurance coverage on is one's driving record. If one has a clean record, one gets the lowest rates. If one is causing accidents, then one is going to pay a penalty for that. That is not the case here in Ontario; the insurance companies decide to punish people for having clean records. Right from the start, when a young person begins to drive, he pays exorbitant rates. The government apparently has very little interest in doing anything about this, and that bothers me. We owe it to the people of Ontario. We know there is a better way.

For example, we know from the examination this Legislature made a number of years ago that the government-run programs in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia have been successful for 14 years—in the case of Saskatchewan much longer than that—and that they are cheaper and highly efficient. In fact, all three parties agreed, although the Liberals and Conservatives could not find it in themselves to put pen to paper when the crunch came, that those plans are superior to what we have in Ontario.

Equal pay legislation troubles me. I continue to be troubled about why the government is dragging its feet on equal pay legislation. It seems to me it is simply a matter of justice. I do not know how on earth we can countenance a situation in 1986 where women continue to be paid less for what they do when their work is essentially the same as that performed by men. I cannot understand why the government does not bring the legislation forward. Why does the government think it is necessary to separate people working in the private sector from those working in the public sector? In many cases, it will be the same task or one that is quite similar. The government sees it as important to separate them. For whatever strange reason, it does not feel it necessary to bring the legislation forward.

As I have mentioned on a previous occasion, the federal-provincial agreement with respect to skills training, a document recently signed by this government and the federal government, is a mistake of a magnitude that could eventually see the closure of some of our community colleges. As many of us are painfully aware, the federal government has decided to privatize the education field, a move that troubles me. Over the years we in Ontario have been well served by our educational institutions. Our elementary and secondary schools and our colleges and universities continue to provide excellent graduates and the skilled labour we require in our work force.

The reward for this appears to be that the federal government is determined to close down some, if not all, of our community colleges. It is doing it by a system of privatization. This is a dangerous move that should strike a bit of fear in the hearts of all members here, including those in the Conservative caucus. I remind the Conservative caucus members, if they do not know it already, that in many of their communities the community colleges are held in high regard for the work they do and the skills training they provide.

The federal government has this strange and quaint notion that somehow the private sector can do it much better. What does the federal government do? I will give the members an example. Drake Personnel receives a contract for \$1 million to put on a secretarial course. Every community college in the province is running secretarial courses, but that does not matter. Being a private firm and not being accountable for the quality of its education, Drake Personnel can put on whatever program it deems appropriate. It has an opportunity to undercut the tuition fee put forward by the local community college. Unfair competition can run untrammelled and we have no say over the quality of education. That is a backward step.

The cut in manpower placements will have an immediate detrimental effect on the colleges as they see up to 40 per cent of manpower placements cut in the next three years. To some community colleges, that is as much as \$400,000 a year cut out of their budgets.

We also see private companies taking on training. Money can be funnelled directly to a private company to do training on the job site instead of availing itself of the local community college with its trained staff. Again there is no guarantee of quality of education.

The government has made a mistake. It was not necessary to enter into the agreement immediately. Ontario was the first province to sign. Ontario could have refused to sign. Many other provinces would have been very happy about that. Ontario is viewed by many to be the key to industrial training. Had Ontario resisted this great opportunity to sign, I am sure many provinces, particularly Quebec and those in the Maritimes, would have been very grateful. Unfortunately, this government has entered into the agreement. As it learns the error of its ways, I hope it will withdraw from the agreement after the first year. I understand that is perfectly legal under the agreement. It can withdraw, and I suggest it should.

3:50 p.m.

I hear some disturbing words that the unemployed help centres across this province in places such as Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie and Ottawa are about to face the axe from this government. I know the background of this, as you do, Mr. Speaker. The federal government had the responsibility to fund unemployed help centres, but it decided that was no longer its responsibility and that it would remove the funding, which it has. That was a mistake, because clearly it does have the responsibility as far as employment centres are concerned. None the less, it withdrew the funding.

The province moved into that vacuum and supplied some money, which is appropriate. I applaud the provincial government for that. Now apparently Ontario is about to systematically shut down the unemployed help centres. That is a mistake, and it will be a disservice to the people in many of those communities, particularly to those in Sault Ste. Marie, which we know is going through the possibility of even greater dislocation. This was mentioned earlier today by my colleagues the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom). If anything, the unemployed help centre in the Sault requires more support, not less.

I want to talk about apprenticeships. This is an area of particular interest for me. As we know, the previous government showed it did not have the courage to complete what is so obvious: a three-way agreement on apprenticeships between government, business and labour in private industry. Unless we are able to fashion a three-way agreement with some kind of grant levy system, similar to what has been developed in West Germany and other parts of western Europe, we shall continue to flounder in the world of apprenticeships.

We have had this incredible situation for a number of years, and it continues. Every once in a while in certain areas we require more skilled tradespeople. We do not have them and we end up going elsewhere to obtain the necessary skilled people. In the area of carpentry, for example, I understand—although the figures may be out a little—that in Metropolitan Toronto over the next five years we probably will require in the neighbourhood of 700 carpenters. We have absolutely no idea where these carpenters are magically going to appear from.

Despite us having a complete college system consisting of 22 colleges, we continue to have fairly high unemployment but will end up

importing carpenters. Why? Our apprenticeship system is a failure. The previous government knew that. It knew the answer, yet it could not supply it. It could not bring itself to do that. Unfortunately, I see no indication that the new government is ready to bite the bullet on this one. It too knows the answer. It knows the model and what has to be done. Unfortunately, what is required now is some political will to make it happen.

In brief terms, I wish to mention my concern about free trade. This province seems to have taken a number of different positions on free trade, which is unfortunate. I quite frankly defy any member of this Legislature, regardless of party, to stand up and say that he or she does not have some uneasiness about the way events are unfolding, because we all realize the Americans are interested in what they call "the level playing field;" that is, everything on the table, everything up for grabs. As well, I realize the Prime Minister of Canada does not have any problem with that. He wants to get rid of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. anyway. That is not a problem for him, but it is a problem for me and it should be a problem for anyone who is a good Canadian. Our cultural sovereignty should not be for sale, nor should our social programs.

To a certain extent, I do not care what the Americans think about our medicare program, our pension programs or our unemployment insurance program. Whether we supply unemployment insurance to fishermen in the winter-time is our business. Over a number of years, as Canadians, we have fashioned certain social and cultural programs for ourselves. They are ours, and they cannot and should not be tied to any free trade talks. Unfortunately, the federal government does not quite see it that way.

This government's role is to take a very firm stand on this and to say these programs are not negotiable, and if the Americans happen to think they are, they can jolly well trot off to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade table and try it out on a few other countries to see whether a subsidy for health care or unemployment insurance is an unfair trade practice.

The strange part of this is that 65 per cent of Ontario's trading now, I believe, is done on a nontariff basis. A huge chunk of trade is already being done without tariffs. I will not argue for a moment that we should not look for better trade possibilities; we would be silly not to. I want us to have good trading partners south of the border, on the Pacific Rim and throughout Europe and the rest of the world. It is marvellous. However,

we should not go into trade negotiations with anyone by allowing the remotest possibility that they can have a say in how we develop our social or cultural policies. I urge the government to take a strong stand on this. It would be very helpful.

I am troubled by the reference in the throne speech, and subsequent to that in the announcement by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), to the designs to have the education system churn out a bunch of little entrepreneurs. In the education system, there is a far greater role to be played in attempting to develop co-operation. Surely it is better to develop a co-operative spirit among young people than to train them to take advantage of one another.

I ask the minister to rethink the path he is headed down. If he is bound and determined to have entrepreneur courses in the schools, at the very least he should allow equal opportunity for the opposition. If he is about to introduce these new and inventive ways on how to make money quickly, he should at the same time ensure that there will be courses in labour studies, the history of labour and the role of the working person in our society. Young people should be taught or at least allowed the opportunity to learn about our class society.

I have had the opportunity to visit many communities in this province during the past few months. I did a tour in which I visited community colleges and other places and discussed a number of items. One that came up constantly from the community colleges and others was a very deep concern about adult literacy. It a problem that continues with us, one that is hidden to a large extent.

4 p.m.

A significant number of adults in our society in Ontario are illiterate. For an older person who cannot read or write and who is working, it is deeply embarrassing to admit that. However, the older person is increasingly in a work place that is more complicated today than it was 20 or 30 years ago, working with chemicals or working with labels that he or she does not understand and cannot read.

The adult literacy problem is a severe one, according to educators and other people working in communities. Unfortunately, as of today, there is no one minister of the crown whose responsibility is adult literacy. There is no one in charge. There are about 10 different ministries that each have a responsibility for adult literacy, but there is no one person who oversees it. We do not have any concerted effort to try to grapple with the problem of adult literacy. I hope the

government will take that in mind and come up with something.

I want to mention a couple of things. One is the situation for Armenians. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) rightly and properly proclaimed Armenian Memorial Day for April 24. He sent copies of the proclamation to Ottawa, where a demonstration was held on that day. I for one appreciate his recognition of Armenian Memorial Day. It was the proper thing to do and I appreciate that.

I suggest, however, that the government needs to go a step further. It must make representations to Ottawa indicating that what the Canadian government has to do, notwithstanding its arrangement with Turkey and the fact that Turkey is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and is also considered to be a strategic ally of the United States, is to try to exact from Turkey an acknowledgement of the holocaust of 1915, an acknowledgement of the genocide and an apology. A plan should be constructed whereby there will be a homeland called Armenia again.

I want to close with a few remarks with respect to the situation of ordinary Ontarians and a new definition of obscenity. I knew that would catch the members' attention. One mention of the word "obscenity" and they are right there.

Mr. Barlow: Tell us what the old definition was.

Mr. Warner: The member wants me to review the old one first, does he?

Members from all parties of the House have attempted at various times to help constituents who have had difficulties receiving family benefits, single mums who lack adequate funds to raise their children, senior citizens who have only the old age pension on which to rely and, in some cases, injured workers who are attempting to get a disability pension from the Canada pension plan.

All of us have done that work. We realize when we are finished, if we are successful, we may have obtained for the individual a meagre amount, somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$8,000 to \$9,000. A family benefits recipient, for example, receives approximately \$8,500. However, all the amounts, whether they are from CPP disability, the family benefits allowance or any of the other social programs, will be in the neighbourhood of \$9,000. Somehow in this province we have determined that is an adequate sum.

We have said again today about Family Day that it is important to raise children. We think children should have at least one parent and, we

hope, two, and care and attention should be paid to those children. They should be raised properly and well. Somehow that is to be done on \$8,500 a year.

The folks about whom I am about to speak spill more than that. Some members, like me, I am sure, read the *Globe and Mail* this past Saturday. An entire page was devoted to the most recent corporate income increases. If one wants a definition of "obscenity," this is it. Some of these corporate people had been given an increase of in the neighbourhood of \$200,000 to raise their salaries to anywhere from \$600,000 per year to more than \$1 million per year, and in addition to this perk, if one can believe it, a housing allowance. It is obscene that someone who gets \$600,000 or even \$800,000 a year requires a housing allowance on top of that, whereas I have constituents—and probably each member, including some of the Conservatives, has constituents—whose total income is less than \$10,000 a year.

We have done something wrong when we have that kind of situation. That gap should not be tolerated at a time when government, both this one and the former one, was preaching, through the civil service and through employment in general, that raises should be in the neighbourhood of four to five per cent, all of which is generally predicated on salaries of \$15,000 to \$25,000. These folks at the top are getting even more, and the gap widens. The people at the bottom are lucky they do not starve to death. In fact, some do starve to death.

If the Liberals think that is acceptable, I feel sorry for them. The Tories, I know, believe it is acceptable. They are the ones who helped to create that system, and they will defend it. They think it is quite all right for someone to get only \$8,500 a year and for some other person to get \$1 million and then ask for more. That system is wrong and it needs to be changed.

There are a lot of challenges that this government needs to meet. Quite frankly, as I listened to the speech from the throne, I did not believe this government was up to meeting those challenges. I know our party is, and I look forward to the day when we will be on that side of the House and we will be the government of Ontario.

Mr. Callahan: It gives me great delight to rise and speak to the matter of the speech from the throne. Before I enter into the discussions about the specifics, I found it rather remarkable to sit here and listen to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) refer to this speech as one of the ones that was drawn out of the archives. I suspect

this was probably the way it was done in the past and I suspect that the poll-makers and the poll-takers probably had a very great hand in writing the speeches from the throne.

4:10 p.m.

On the contrary, the speech from the throne that has been produced by this Liberal government can be summed up in a general fashion by the opening statements. They indicate that it is an agenda for the next decade. It offers a framework for long-term achievement rather than a list of short-term priorities. I suggest that, at least in the last 10 years, anyway—I will not speak for the period before that, because I think in the period before that, in fairness to governments before that, priorities were on a longer range—for some reason the people who conduct public opinion polls in this province were more significant than the people who had the knowhow, the expertise and the vision to come up with programs that might be put into a speech from the throne that would move Ontario towards the 21st century. It is fortunate that this task fell to a more progressive and more visionary government, namely, the Liberal government; otherwise, we would still be having polls taken and we would probably still be operating the way we were in the past.

Let me address generally a few of the problematic concerns in that regard. Number one is education. We were turning out, en masse, engineers, teachers, doctors, lawyers and people in various trades and professions. We were introducing children to the idea that they could get a job in a particular field without any possible futuristic approach of determining whether there were going to be jobs in that field. As a result, large numbers of young ladies and young men went through the education system, which was an exceptional one, without any clear direction and without the opportunities to use the technology of the present century and of the next century to be able to decide where they should direct their goals.

The throne speech addresses that in a very real sense. I suggest it addresses it in a visionary way in that it is going to set up computer terminals and is going to keep the standard up to date. I gather that those computer terminals and those computer activities can not only project for the present, but can also project an image of the future, so that young people getting out of school, graduating from secondary school, community college or university, will have an opportunity to address a job or to arrive at a job that is meaningful and that has some relevance to the courses they have

taken or to the course of pursuit they have gone after.

Up to this point, that has not been done. What happened was simply that people were required to go to school and to stay in school for a specific period of time; there was no direction. That is a sad commentary, because probably the strongest and most essential commodity we have in this province, in this country and in this world is our young people. To have allowed them to continue in that vein without any direction, without any possible hope of getting a job when they got out of school—unless they got lucky—was a sadistic approach to the entire education system.

I am very enthused by the statements made in the throne speech. This is where I depart from the Leader of the Opposition, who looked at the throne speech and said there was nothing there. He should not only get contact lenses, he should get a new pair of glasses, because he missed the entire tenor. The entire tenor of this throne speech is futuristic.

I will go to the introduction. I quote pages 2 and 3 so that those Conservatives who did not wish to bother themselves with reading the entire throne speech can get a total picture of what was being presented by this government in terms of vision for the future. I go on to the next statement that was made: "It outlines some of the steps Ontario must take over the next decade to ensure its place as the world-class society of the 21st century."

This becomes particularly significant in the light of the headlong approach Mr. Mulroney, their kissing cousin in Ottawa, is taking towards free trade with the United States. Unless this province is prepared to have a vision, to try to adapt, to be flexible and to provide the investigation, research and development to be able to compete not only with the United States but with other countries around the world, we are going to be left behind. This is one of the things that is approached in the throne speech in very a significant way.

There is a recognition of another sector as well. The job sector is certainly one of the most important, but another sector is the question of how we deliver medical services in this province. We have an excellent health care system, probably the finest in the world. The delivery systems for that health care system have changed dramatically. The age of people in this province has changed dramatically. No longer can we look at the constant building of hospitals and at providing beds for people who are of an age

category in which they would be better served in a chronic care facility.

This government in the throne speech addresses that issue. It says it is not going to do what the official opposition did. We recognize that the cost of health care to the provincial budget is some 31 per cent now; some \$9 billion is being spent. If this is allowed to continue in the vein the former Conservative government would have allowed it to continue, it would have resulted in the year of 2001 in a doubling of that amount.

The Liberal government was not satisfied with that. In its throne speech it is saying it is going to look at different approaches because changes have taken place in Ontario society. Contrary to the approach that was taken by the former Conservative government, rather than going around and dealing with the question of budgetary measures by attempting to close hospitals, we are looking at buttressing the hospitals that are there now and introducing more visionary ways of dealing with them. I suggest the Leader of the Opposition missed that point, and it is a very significant point.

I suppose members will see what a throne speech is all about as they see it fleshed out. It is simply given in point detail at the moment. It will be fleshed out over the period of time between now and the budget. I think a significant feature of that is the recent introduction of an explanation by the Minister of Education. When did the Conservatives ever get the idea of introducing into the curriculum of a secondary school a credit course to allow young men and young women to learn how to be entrepreneurs? I know the NDP does not appreciate that, but they have to learn how to get jobs and the skills that are essential to be able to go out and get them. In a very large sense, this is what the job centres are doing throughout Ontario. They are required to do it because the educational system of the past, the nonvisionary approach, did not provide for that.

I was speaking with the Minister of Education the other day. This is not in the throne speech, but I suggested to the minister that perhaps we should look into the question of making public speaking a required course for every student in a secondary school in Ontario. In a very real sense, we are human beings and we do not communicate by concepts; we communicate by the verbal word. If you cannot speak, you cannot communicate. If you cannot communicate, you cannot get a job and you cannot do the job effectively.

Mrs. Marland: He cannot negotiate; he is down to only two members on his side.

Mr. Callahan: It is interesting that the member on the other side can actually count.

A most interesting idea is the Minister of Education's approach of dealing with it by introducing it as a credit course. I am sure we are well aware of people who have not only graduated from the secondary educational system, but also from university and some with postgraduate degrees, who cannot get jobs. I suggest that had they had the opportunity early on in their secondary education to take a credit course that would teach them the approaches to business, they would now have that opportunity. That is what the Minister of Education has done. That is futuristic. That is visionary. That is something that the former government had 42 years to do and did not do. They simply allowed these young people to flounder after they got out of school, or they would introduce some hot-shot program that was supposed to take these people over a short period of time, perhaps a summer or perhaps an even shorter period. That was unfair to the young people of this province.

The Minister of Education, in fleshing out the proposals in the throne speech, has been masterful in the vision he has shown in doing that. In his fleshing out of that statement, he also provides for the computer program, so young people can go to a library or any of these other locations where these computers are going to be set up and tap out not only what the job market is today, but also for the future. They can then plan their careers.

4:20 p.m.

When I was in university, everybody wanted to be either a teacher or an engineer. In fact, when I went to law school, we had fellows there who had received their engineering degrees and had come back to law school because there were no engineering jobs in the private sector or the public sector. We had people rushing off in a mad dash to take a particular course which led absolutely no place.

Today we have lawyers—and I am sure the people of the nonlegal community will consider this to be appropriate—people in the legal profession, who are not even practising in the legal community. They are practising in fields somewhat akin to social work. Some may even be working in fields that are totally divorced from the question of the legal profession.

Again, it was a situation where the former government and the former educational policy allowed these people to go on, take what they liked and take their chances that they would get a job when they got out.

Mr. Gregory: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: It is unfortunate that only two Liberals are in the House to listen to this great speech by the member for Brampton. I do not see a quorum.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

4:24 p.m.

Mr. Callahan: I would like to see the Leader of the Opposition out here to listen to my speech.

I will go on with the visionary items that are in this speech from the throne that the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) could not see. I am not sure he read it. It was either that or he was having some difficulty seeing it. It is full of visionary items, some of which I have already addressed.

Through this speech from the throne, this government has pledged to continue the openness with which it has approached government. Never before have the secret books of all the positions, the jobs, the dates that people's jobs are up and the salaries ever been taken out of the bowels of this House. They have now been tabled and are available to anybody in this province.

In addition, the appointments made by this government have been appointments of fine quality, disregarding the question of what party the appointees belong to. That is a visionary step on the part of this government in making certain that the people who are the beneficiaries of those actions are the people of Ontario and not some select group, some group which is owed a favour or which assisted in an election, but people who are excellent. That is a hallmark of the speech from the throne and a continued process that this government has pledged.

One of the other new items is the budget process. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has invited people to participate and contribute to the budget process. This has not happened in the past. Only recently has it been tried in the federal Tory fiefdom but not with great success. This government has taken the opportunity to listen to the people of this province who will be affected by the budget and to introduce another degree of openness and fairness to the budgetary system and, in the final analysis, the taxation of this province.

In the justice system, the speech from the throne addresses probably one of the most lingering and difficult problems, which was never addressed by the previous government, the question of how one gets to trial without waiting two or three years to do it. I have had letters—and I am sure every member of this House has had letters—from constituents who found that a matter

finally went to trial two, three or four years down the line.

In this speech from the throne—and I am sure members will see it fleshed out by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)—are visionary approaches on how to speed up that system and how to make certain it is fairer. There is an old axiom, which I am sure my good friend the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) would be aware of, which says justice delayed is justice denied. There is no question about it; witnesses die and witnesses lose their remembrance of what they saw. That is unfair.

Recently in the press—and we do not know whether it is a fact yet because the details have not been fleshed out—it was stated the criminal injuries' compensation maximum is being increased to \$25,000. That was never done. It was \$15,000 and had been since the institution of the entire process.

That is dealing with people in a much fairer approach and recognizing the fact that victims of crime are Ontario citizens who have had to pay for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or perhaps for having had the courage to assist another Ontarian who was in a plight. That is the hallmark of a civilized, sensitive, open and fair society.

The legal aid system in this province has been a good program, but it has been underfunded for a considerable time. As a result, we have lost some of our more senior members of the bar from representing people under legal aid certificates, and yet I have to return to the defence of the counsel whom I know in this province. I doubt there are any major contributors to counsel work in the criminal process, including Eddie Greenspan or Bob Carter, who would deny an Ontarian the opportunity for a full defence under a legal aid certificate. That is a recognition of the high degree of integrity that the legal profession has in this province.

It was high time that the legal aid tariff was enhanced, and it has been. We will find out the particulars of that through the speech from the throne.

During my campaign in my riding, I discovered that what had been overlooked was that Ontario had changed. Ontario is no longer the fiefdom of people who were perhaps born here. It has expanded and opened up to a myriad of cultures, to the benefit of this entire province. Because of that, interpreters are required to handle the difficulties in courts. To see that justice prevails, again in the speech from the throne we are told there will be total access to

interpreters in whatever language the person speaks.

4:30 p.m.

Looking at it from the standpoint of a visionary approach, today we have something that is very significant, the question of battered wives. We had battered wives 10 or 15 years ago, but nothing was done by the previous government to address, zero in on that problem and try to deal with it. It simply tried to use the old wheels of justice, the old system, to address that problem.

I suggest that the net result of the delay in approaching that very sad problem, the flotsam and jetsam of it, was the young children who grew up and did the same thing as a result of seeing their fathers do it. The women who lived in sheer horror and fear are now going to have the opportunity, through the advertisements that are being put forward, the shelters that are being made available and the special crown attorneys who will be dealing with these sensitive cases, to come out of the closet and to stop this continuum so that future generations of young children will not be affected by it and will not perpetuate the process.

There is a statement in the throne speech that there will be consumer protection. This is also visionary. It is high time in this province that we reviewed the protections that are available to consumers, because the approaches, the techniques and the technology that have been introduced into consumerism and into the sale of commodities have moved into the future. Unless we move into the future with laws that protect the consumer in that regard, we will have done nothing for them; we will, in fact, have left them subject to people preying upon them in a dishonest fashion. This again is visionary.

I am really sorry the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) cannot be here to hear this, because when I listened to his speech, I thought to myself opposition, loyal opposition, Her Majesty's loyal opposition do not mean Her Majesty's loyal negativism. That is exactly what his comments were, totally negative. He could not find one good thing in the throne speech. He must have read the speech at a time when he really was not concentrating on it, because there are numerous visionary statements in it that are going to take us in a sensitive, open and just fashion into the next century.

The social assistance program in this province prior to the installation of this government was a hotchpotch. Just as a matter of curiosity, I took the book provided by the government and tried to go through it to find where the services were.

Someone would need a master's degree to find them, and when he got to them, he would probably find there were so many diverse programs that he could not possibly put them all together within his lifetime.

This is being reviewed with a simple, particular approach of justice, fairness and openness for the delivery of a system to the people that is meant to be delivered to them—not a sham, not something that is set aside and about which we say, "It is there," but something we can talk about and say, "We have done this and we have done that." It is a system that is going to work and that is going to provide the necessary funds, with the least red tape, to the people of this province who need them.

I suppose the only way one can really appreciate the difficulties that existed under the old system was to have been involved as a municipal politician, as I was and as I am sure many of the people in this House were, trying to get some assistance for a particular constituent. By the time I got finished, I was not sure whether I had finished playing Password or some quiz program. I went from pillar to post and everybody gave me a little bit of information. Finally, if I was lucky, I was able to put it together and eventually get some results for my constituent. That cannot happen.

We are not dealing here with nonhumans; we are dealing with human beings, whose needs are immediate and whose needs have to be met in a sensitive fashion. I suggest that is exactly what this government is doing.

Let us take the question of senior citizens. When has there ever been a minister specifically responsible for seniors? If I may suggest it, that was a stroke of genius of this government because—

Mr. Barlow: Let us not get carried away.

Mr. Callahan: The problem with the former government was that it was all senior citizens.

The approach will be for a single minister to go throughout this province and listen to the people who can provide the answers, who can resurrect the problems and who can tell the government where it should be going, in what direction, instead of what was done in the past. The former government probably got one of its pollsters to go out and ask four or five people or 100 people. It did not get a cross-section, a gathering of views of people throughout this province.

A white paper is going to be brought forward. I suggest this white paper is also visionary and is also a demonstrative recognition of the fairness and justice of the approach this government is

taking. If that is not far-reaching, I am surprised the Leader of the Opposition did not see that. Maybe those pages got stuck together with peanut butter or something. I do not know, but he obviously did not see it.

On the question of entrepreneurship, we are going to give an opportunity to working people, to people who do not have their own businesses. We are going to take entrepreneurship out of the boardrooms and we are going to include the guy on the shop floor. That is an excellent approach. That may be a futuristic approach to the question of labour relations, not in total, but in part. If we can make that person an entrepreneur by giving him shares through the program suggested in the budget, we give him a little bit of the business he is working at. It makes him more attentive to the fact that companies cannot continue to raise wages to the extent that they cost themselves right out of the market. Maybe that is the approach to take. Maybe that is the start. Maybe that is the sparkle that is going to start a new change in the approach to labour relations.

I suggest that is visionary as well. It is something that should be applauded by the workers of this province, particularly in areas such as northern Ontario. If that program had been in place 10 or 15 years ago, and if it had been aggressively pursued through programs of the government, we might well have had employees who would have been in a position to have picked up the chips when the employer left, instead of being left stranded. Perhaps we would not have half the crises that have come before this House in the past week or two; very sad crises, with people losing their jobs. Perhaps if there had been some vision in the past and some such approach taken, we would not be facing that problem.

The farmers of this province and this country have never had a significant backup from the government. This government is trying to open up markets to them in the Pacific Rim countries. We can compete. We have some of the finest farm land in this country. We have the opportunity to produce and to sell far afield. There are provisions in the budget for providing the financing, the expertise and the information required by the farmer to do that. I suggest that is a sensitive approach.

I dare anyone to point to any government in Canada and perhaps in the world that has done more in the past year for the environment. The most exciting thing in carrying that forward is that within this throne speech we are talking about developing technology. Ontarians and

Canadians can develop that technology. We have developed the Canadarm and numerous other technological advances. If we can develop the technological approach to enhancing and to making our environment better, we can market that. In marketing it, we may be able to convince our US neighbours, who thus far have not been convinced by moral suasion, to clean up their act. Perhaps we can provide them with the technology that will make it easier for them to do it, so that we can preserve the future heritage of this province for our children and our grandchildren. That is an exciting situation.

There were some chuckles about the fact that we are taking a new direction in tourism. I suggest that if members look at some of the ads on television today, they are a heck of a lot better than the "Preserve it, conserve it" commercials, which I always thought were nothing more than ads for the Conservative Party.

The new commercials are telling Americans, "Come to Ontario." They are trying to get Americans out of coming up here in the middle of summer with skis on their cars. We are going to tell them what Ontario is all about. In the past, for some reason, one got the feeling the previous government did not want Americans to come in. It did not tell them anything. How could that government have been in power for 42 years and still have Americans thinking Ontario is up around Alaska? There are people from the far south who believe it snows here 365 days a year. After 42 years in government, if the Conservatives could not sell a province that does not require a great deal of selling, because it is one of the finest provinces in Canada, they really lost the ball.

I suggest that in this throne speech is a different approach to tourism. It is an approach that is going to enhance the eastern and northern portions of our province, which we have to sell, where we have some of the finest lakes, some of the finest rivers and some of the finest areas for hunting or anything else. Those are important aspects.

4:40 p.m.

My friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner), who now is absent from the House, raised a question about literacy. I had my mind blown the other morning when listening to a group from Frontier College tell us about the number of people in this province who are illiterate, who cannot read a simple phrase and will not admit it. It is understandable they will not admit it. There are others who are illiterate in a different way. The fact this can occur in 1986 in

Ontario in the country of Canada is absolutely incomprehensible.

Illiteracy did not develop yesterday or 10 years ago. Presumably, it was with us throughout the 42-year reign of the party that is led by the man who says he can see nothing in this throne speech that is exciting, imaginative or visionary. If I were standing there for Her Majesty's loyal opposition, surely to heaven I would say: "There is one thing that is important. The Liberal government is going to deal with the question of illiteracy."

There was not a word from him. I wonder whether he read it. I would not go so far as to suggest he cannot read it, but did he read it? Did he see that? Is he caring enough to realize that this government is going to deal with a problem that has lain dormant in the province for 42 years with no activity on the part of the government? Now it is going to be addressed by a government that cares whether a person can read the telephone book. The members should think how important it is to be able to read the telephone book in getting a job, assuming they do not reduce the size of the print, which they did recently. Assume one cannot read the telephone book or a road sign; then one cannot get a simple thing such as a driver's licence.

The throne speech suggests this is going to be addressed. It has to be addressed most specifically for the very reasons set out in the throne speech. We are moving into a stage of great technology, into an area where knowledge is going to be multiplied to the extent that for one to be able to assimilate it or even to carry out the most perfunctory job, one is going to have to be able to read. It is at the very root of Ontarians having not only the tools, but also the opportunity to participate fully in their province.

If one went back to the throne speeches of the former government, one would never see that. Why was it not there? Did they not care about it? Was it not something that was important to them? As long as they could all read and write, was it the heck with everybody else in Ontario? That in itself and without anything else is worthy of this being a fine throne speech. The Leader of the Opposition could have commented on it, but he did not.

They did not bother to look at the factor that the bringing in of this new, open, fair government perhaps has produced an atmosphere in the province that has allowed 170,000 new jobs to be produced over the past 12 months, with some 73,000 jobs introduced in the first three months of 1986 and an unemployment rate of 6.8 per

cent, the lowest in Canada. They would like to say it was all a result of the workings of the former government. It is equally a fact that it is the result of an atmosphere that has been created in this province by the introduction of a new government that is showing itself to be fair, open, innovative and visionary. It has created an atmosphere in this province that has allowed these jobs to be created.

I have to come back to the question of the relevance of education in the job search. With all due respect, that has to be one of the most significant, innovative steps that has been taken. We are no longer creating courses or directing young people into courses where the job they are going to get is not there. This program of using computers particularly allows a projection to be made into the future and thereby allows a young person to decide what he will take and how he will get there.

The government has already shown its fairness and sensitivity in the introduction in the past week or two of certain items that were mentioned in the throne speech. The introduction of the French language into this province in places where there are significant numbers who require that service in their own language is fair. The former government dodged that issue for years. It jockeyed around and tried to avoid the shadows because it thought that was a political hot potato, but not this government, which said, "It is fair, it is just, it is going to be done," and it was done. That in itself is a significant feature of this throne speech.

We received questions on the pay equity bill from the member for Ottawa South, I believe.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Callahan: The member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) was drilling questions at the Attorney General this afternoon. I thought the Attorney General's reply was eminently fair. He said we are reviewing the situation, we have a group out there that is hearing from all concerned and when that report is returned, we will produce legislation. The member over there would like us to produce the legislation in advance.

The government is moving as quickly as possible on an issue on which the official opposition says we are not moving fast enough. They are just chafing at the bit to support this piece of legislation now. When it is introduced, they may decide to go against it to try to find an issue that they can jockey on, but at the moment they are suggesting we should bring it in. Why did they not bring it in? What did they do during the 42 years they had? How can they possibly

come forward and criticize a throne speech that contains things they should have done?

I recall the second election I ran in Brampton in 1981. The then Premier introduced a bill with a great flourish, trumpets sounding: the 10 points of freedom for the people of this province. I remember the commentator suggesting that the Premier had gone into the refrigerator and got one of Leslie Frost's old election plays.

If that is not cynicism, if that is not a way to approach a government that should be frowned upon and not considered to be sensitive, innovative and visionary, I do not know what is. How can the Conservatives stand there and try to criticize this government for the steps I have already addressed that have been taken in this throne speech and that will probably make it one of the finest, most visionary and most just throne speeches that has been put through this House in 42 years?

One thing I do not want to leave out is the approach to seniors in this province. It really concerns me because I am 49 now and as I fast approach that golden age, I do not want to be kept in that pumpkin shell in which the Conservatives kept seniors. It was like that. How does it go? "Peter, Peter, pumpkin shell?" Something like that. That is what they did. They put the seniors in a pigeonhole. They said, "When you turn 65 and you have no one to look after you, you can go into one of our senior citizen homes."

4:50 p.m.

From my observations and from the discussions I have had with seniors during the period I have been in public life, the return I always got was: "I want to be independent. I want to stay in my home as long as I can. Provide me with a couple of the essential services, such as snow shovelling, grass cutting and perhaps a few other incidentals, and I will stay in my home." However, that was not the approach. The approach was, "Sell your house and live in this institution."

That is the biggest kick in the face to one of the most significant commodities in this province; a natural resource and a source of wisdom, great expertise and experience, equal in significance to our young people. If that is not a kick in the pants, I do not know what is.

We have seen innovative measures here that recommend the independence of seniors be maintained wherever possible. We have seen innovative measures such as granny flats through the Ministry of Housing. Granny flats are a very significant way of accomplishing two ends. First, they provide a home for one's senior father

or mother, or both. Second, they provide for the possibility of the expertise, knowledge and experience of the seniors being interplayed with one's own children in a very close relationship.

That is one of the things that is missing in this province. It was addressed this morning when the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) suggested that family life in this province had gone down the pike. It is very necessary to return that to the forefront. I suggest part of that is this interplay between seniors and the family. It is gone. The family did not look after the senior. Because the province had provided accommodations through an institution, the senior went there and was visited perhaps once or twice a week. The programs that are being suggested provide a sensitive way of approaching and dealing with the problem, using the grey matter, the experience and the lovingness of those elderly people to look after and assist these children.

That in itself is visionary. It is sensitive, just and fair. It is the hallmark of this government and this throne speech. I doubt very much if this throne speech was pulled out of the word processor as being number one, two, three, four or five, as has been so in the past. It was written with a good deal of vision and care, trying to give us a peek into what would be fleshed out by the ministerial statements over a period of time as to the policies of this government. I am proud to be associated with a government that produces such a caring throne speech.

I am a bit miffed and I must say I sometimes wonder whether we are wasting our time in this House when the opposition approaches a throne speech in that vein, saying there is absolutely nothing in it and it is totally devoid of any possible worth. That is totally irresponsible. It may be the way things were done in the past and it may be the parliamentary tradition, but surely to heaven we are all adults here. We are here for a particular purpose. If these programs advance the cause and excellence of the people of this province, they should be supported, whether they are inspired by the opposition or by the government. They should not be totally negated. I hope my friends opposite take that message back to their leader. He may as well have stayed out playing basketball the day he delivered his speech. He could have sent it in a cloud of gloom and doom. That is all it was.

By way of trying to answer all the questions, so members cannot ask me any, I would like to close by saying this: The success or failure of this province to be able to compete in the 21st century, the strength it will need to resist any of

the problems that may arise, if Mr. Mulroney speeds on towards free trade and puts everything on the table or certain things that we do not want on the table, are contained within the framework of this and other throne speeches. If we continue to deliver speeches from the throne as we have in the past, we will be caught up and swept right in as part of the United States. I for one—and I am sure members in this House and Ontarians at large—do not want to be part of the United States. We want to retain our specific Canadian identity. I suggest this speech from the throne is a vehicle in itself for carrying us into the 21st century, retaining that identity and avoiding that other possibility.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions?

Mr. Gregory: I have a couple of quick observations after listening to the member for Brampton reflect on his cloistered past in Brampton.

He obviously does not know anything about government at all. If he wants to know anything about answers to speeches from the throne, he should read some of those given by Dr. Smith; the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), the present Premier, or the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon). I wonder about the state of naïveté that pervades in Brampton since the previous member is no longer there.

It brought to mind something that was mentioned by a member of the New Democratic Party today about how one gets the cows to come home. To get the cows to come home, one has to control the bull. The member might well have done that today. I have never heard more ludicrous and totally naïve statements with regard to a throne speech.

He is a little like the woman who visited the Pacific Ocean for the first time. She stood on the shore and said, "It is bigger than I thought." He is trying to make us believe the speech from the throne was bigger than we thought it was. There was certainly nothing in it. He commented on the wonderful quality of the filming done by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. The other day his own minister said it was done by the previous government's employees' contracts. I do not know what his government has done that is so wonderful in this ministry, apart from the rest stops—Peterson's potties, so to speak. I do not know what else it has done.

He mentioned his government is doing so much to aid senior citizens to remain in their own homes. Is the member at all aware of the

guaranteed annual income system and which government brought it in? Is he aware of the property and sales tax grants and which government brought them in? Quite apart from the sales tax grants, is he aware of the exemptions for senior citizens on their properties and who brought them in?

The Deputy Speaker: Your time has expired.

Mr. Gregory: This government tried to keep people in their own homes.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Marland: Why has the member for Brampton not done what is traditional in throne speech responses and represented his riding? My understanding is that a throne speech response is an opportunity to represent one's riding. It was very interesting to hear the member for Brampton refer to the world-class society of the 21st century and say that the Ontario government will achieve that by the next decade. It has to be the greatest insult to the premier province of this country today to say that we have to wait 10 years to become what we are today, which is a world-class society.

Does the member for Brampton have no interest in representing his riding and commenting on the benefits to Brampton in the contents of the speech from the throne? He very strongly and extensively criticizes the educational system, which our party established and through which many millions of students have benefited in the past 42 years. He then goes on to say they are overeducated and then ends his speech complaining about illiteracy. It was the most incredible speech I could possibly have heard.

5 p.m.

I also ask him whether his resolution dealing with the restrictions on increases in honorariums for members of school boards and municipal councils, as listed in Orders and Notices, is his attack and his idea of how to improve education for the people who live in Brampton?

Mr. Barlow: I want to make a couple of comments. I listened with great intent to the words of wisdom—and I use that phrase advisedly—of the member for Brampton. He referred to the speech from the throne as the speech of the decade.

I believe he has heard this on more than one occasion, but it bears repeating once again, because I do not believe it has sunk in for the member or for any of the other members of the Liberal Party. After 42 years, I would have thought there could be a little bit more originality there. I am not talking about the future, but it is

today that the New Democratic Party assisted the Liberal Party in forming the government. There are items that should be in the speech from the throne for today's life in Ontario. The government talks about what will happen in the future and not about what will happen here and now.

Had I been sitting in opposition in these chambers for the past 42 years, I would have had a better opportunity and a better grasp of what was happening and what should happen immediately.

He mentioned that we as a Tory party have been talking in a negative way about the speech from the throne. I have been here for just a little better than five years, and the members from the Liberal Party have been negative towards everything positive that was in any of our speeches from the throne or budgets in the past. I can see nothing in this speech from the throne for us to be talking against since most of the policies were developed by the Tory governments of the past.

He mentioned our health care system. I agree that the finest system in this country and probably in the world was developed right here in Ontario. However, his government is doing all it can to destroy that system.

Mr. Sterling: I had better get started because I have only one minute and 36 seconds left.

I congratulate the member for Brampton for a world-class speech, because it seems that everything within the speech from the throne was world class. I do not put any of his remarks any lower than anything that was said in the speech from the throne.

He talked about visions and the visionary aspect of the throne speech. I get the distinct impression that this government operates on visions. It does not operate on nuts and bolts, and nuts and bolts are what this government and this province need.

Outside of the very kind effort of locating a tourism station at the Quebec-Ontario border on Highway 401, eastern Ontario was not even mentioned in the speech from the throne. I heard northern Ontario mentioned six, seven or eight times, but the government seems to have forgotten eastern Ontario. I note his two colleagues from eastern Ontario, the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Keyes) and the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South), were there. I hoped they would have had more influence on the government with respect to dealing with that very important part of it.

In eastern Ontario, we need much more than just visions in the tourism area. We need a school for hospitality to teach young students how to

operate properly in the tourism area. I ask the honourable member to go to his colleague the Treasurer and ask him to do something meaningful for eastern Ontario. We do not want more visions; we want action.

Mr. Callahan: First, I want to reply to the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory). He said that negativism has been traditional over the years because Dr. Smith and the former opposition leader, now the Premier, were negative with respect to their response to a speech from the throne. Does he mean that is the way the people of Ontario are supposed to stand around and watch that performance, that charade?

Mr. Gregory: Do not ask me; ask them.

Mr. Callahan: Does anything ever get changed? I think it is visionary that parliament should be reformed in this respect. If there are good things there, they should be supported. The House of Commons, traditionally, does not put down everything the government proposes. It knocks the things where appropriate knocking is required.

To deal with the comment made by my colleague the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), if she is correct in saying that everyone here is supposed to stand up to speak about his or her riding during the throne speech debate, we would learn a lot about the ridings of everyone here, including those of people who might have been here for 10 years. Are we going to hear about them 10 times? I suggest to the member that what is a good Ontario will encompass a good Brampton. Brampton already is a leader in terms of the glowing success that the province could well emulate.

Mr. McFadden: When I listened to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor deliver the speech from the throne, I was reminded of Mae West. To paraphrase an expression used by that late great actress, I have never heard a speech from the throne I did not like, at least in part.

Typical speeches from the throne are full of platitudes and generalities which often are hard to disagree with. This speech from the throne is no exception. Perhaps the best way to describe much of the speech from the throne is something borrowed, something blue.

As our leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), said last week, a large part of the initiatives set out in the speech was simply borrowed from past programs and proposals of the former Progressive Conservative government or lifted from the Enterprise Ontario program put forward by our party in the last provincial election.

This makes much of the speech both borrowed and blue, which contrasts with the government's program in the last session. That was essentially a borrowing and implementation of a large part of the New Democratic Party's platform. That could be described as something borrowed and something green. I can understand why the Liberal government reduced its borrowing at the NDP bank. It was because the voters were starting to turn green at the various proposals brought in.

It is remarkable that a government that is only one year old is virtually bankrupt when it comes to new ideas. The speech from the throne is a 36-page compendium of rehashed programs and concepts, mixed with some old Liberal ideas which are either wrong or out of step with the times.

There also are some major omissions in the speech which clearly point to a trendy mindset of a government that overlooks the needs of many Ontarians.

The first part of the speech focused on the government's prescription and perception of the needs and direction of Ontario's economy. The centrepiece of the government's economic strategy was the Premier's council, which has been charged with the responsibility "to steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation."

The speech from the throne then goes on to say that this council "will be chaired by the Premier and include as active participants several cabinet ministers and leaders of business, labour and post-secondary education." If there has ever been a sterling example of a political shell game being played by the Premier and his government, this has to be it.

The Treasurer announced last fall, with great fanfare, that the government was terminating both the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and the Ontario Economic Council. BILD consisted of a number of cabinet ministers, all with economic portfolios, who had as their responsibility the planning and co-ordination of the province's economic programs.

5:10 p.m.

The Ontario Economic Council, consisting of leaders of business, labour and post-secondary institutions, was an independent forum established to provide the best possible advice to the government on economic policy. The work over the years of both BILD and the Ontario Economic Council played a very significant role in creating the kind of economic growth and development which we are currently enjoying in

this province; but the record of achievement of BILD and the OEC were not to be recognized by the new government. The proposed Premier's council is essentially an amalgam of BILD and the economic council. The several cabinet ministers of BILD are simply merged with the leaders of business, labour and post-secondary education in the economic council.

One aspect of the Premier's council which I found disturbing was its purported mandate "to steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation." The clear reading of this passage from the speech from the throne is that the cabinet will abdicate, at least in part, its legal and constitutional responsibility to this Premier's council for the development and implementation of policy in this province. The operative word in this passage is "steer." Webster's dictionary defines "steer" to mean "to direct the course of; to pursue a course of action; to be subject to guidance or direction."

Under our system of government, the job of steering is the role of cabinet and this Legislature. The government cannot by fiat or by a speech from the throne transfer this power to a nonelected, nonresponsible Premier's council. This proposal, as it is set out and worded in the speech from the throne, is not only illegal but also unconstitutional.

With this particular proposal in the speech, one would have to ask how serious the government really is about the proposed responsibilities of the newly established standing committee on finance and economic affairs. Either the Premier's council and the standing committee will wind up duplicating a significant part of each other's roles and efforts or one or both of these bodies will be essentially window-dressing for image purposes, with the government having no real intention of listening to either or both of these bodies.

Much has been made about the \$1-billion special technology fund to be supervised by this Premier's council. However, it now emerges on closer examination that this fund is really much ado about very little. Of the \$1 billion, one half comes from existing money already committed by the province. In addition, the money is to be allocated over a 10-year period. When we add inflation to the length of time over which the money is allocated, this fund will have little real effect on the Ontario economy or on our place in the world. While the technology fund may be an image-builder among the uninformed, we would be dreaming if we believed this fund would have

any significant effect on Ontario's place in the world economy.

The speech from the throne then goes on to touch on various areas of Ontario's economy. I am pleased to see the acknowledgement given to the growing importance of the service sector in our economy. As the members of the select committee on economic affairs will recall, I have raised on many occasions in that committee the crucial role of the service industries in our economy, a role which is too often overlooked by government. Fully two thirds of our work force is involved in the service sector, and this proportion is steadily rising year by year.

I am glad as well to see that the government will continue to pursue the course developed by the Progressive Conservative government to foster the growth of Ontario as an international financial and commercial centre. I look forward to the release of the government study of the Ontario service sector and the ways in which the province can help that sector prosper and grow.

I was also pleased to hear that the current government will continue the Progressive Conservative government's policy of encouraging small business and entrepreneurship and promoting international trade. While it is heartening to see the Liberal government endorse the kinds of policies that have brought such growth to Ontario over the years under successive Progressive Conservative Premiers, many of the actions taken by the government toward business and the professions since this government came into office indicate that government support for such economic programs is superficial and lacking in real commitment.

The speech from the throne goes on to discuss the future of post-secondary education. Few would argue with the position taken that "Ontario's ability to meet many of the challenges it faces depends on how well it can harness the full potential of its post-secondary education system." However, the speech raises some serious questions about the government's plans for our universities and colleges. The speech states: "My government is committed to enabling Ontario's universities and colleges to establish their essential place on the path to excellence in these and other targeted areas. This will involve determining the areas of specialty universities can master and the avoidance of unnecessary program duplication."

Who is to determine the areas of specialty universities can master? A clear and obvious reading of this provision of the speech indicates that the government will make this determina-

tion. What possible standards can the government apply to determine whether a university can master an area of study? This has always been the prerogative of the universities themselves since they are best able to determine the subjects in which they have the necessary commitment and intellectual capacity to develop and maintain specialized areas of study. For the government now to appropriate the role of determining areas the universities can master is a major intervention into the self-government of our universities.

Who is to determine unnecessary program duplication? This proposal in the speech should be read in conjunction with the stated objective of the Treasurer to rationalize Ontario's universities. It should be recalled that the October budget proposed the transfer of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to the University of Toronto on the grounds of elimination of duplication. After days of hearings at the standing committee on general government, it is clear no duplication exists. Without exception, witness after witness before the committee and letter after letter sent to members of the committee proved that OISE provides an invaluable, cost-effective and unique service not provided by any other institution of higher learning in Ontario.

After this ill-conceived decision relating to OISE, every university in Ontario can only live in fear of what devastation this kind of policy could have on university faculties and programs throughout Ontario. Based on the experience of OISE, no university, no matter how good it might be, can rest assured that it will not be next on the hit list of the terminator, the provincial Treasurer.

5:20 p.m.

If this is not enough, once the government has determined the areas of concentration universities can undertake, as set out in the speech from the throne, the speech then says that the "government will support excellence through appropriate funding and measures directed towards institutional accountability." What does "institutional accountability" mean? To whom are our universities and colleges to be accountable? What are the standards and penalties to be applied?

It is clear that the government intends to develop a system that will force our post-secondary educational institutions to account for their programs to the government of the day. This is a major attack on the whole concept of university self-government. Is the government saying that universities and colleges have been irresponsible with their budgets, have been

dishonest in their practices or have failed to account for their spending in the past? I find this particular proposal about institutional accountability to be insulting to the excellent boards and administrators of our post-secondary institutions throughout Ontario, who have taken their responsibility seriously and have been accountable in the broadest sense for their budgets and for the programs they manage.

This is not all. The speech from the throne then goes on to state that the "government will encourage the development of centres of excellence in Ontario's post-secondary institutions." The speech does not acknowledge that we already have centres of excellence. It implies that excellence will develop, only with the current government's encouragement, for the first time. This is also an insult to the many fine departments and faculties in our colleges and universities throughout Ontario, which already have centres of excellence in a broad range of fields covering everything from law and political science, history and studies in education to medicine, engineering, physics and mathematics. Many of the faculties in our universities and colleges are ranked as centres of excellence today, both in Canada and throughout the world. It is the height of insensitivity and arrogance to state that this kind of situation does not exist today. I submit that it is a gratuitous swipe at our post-secondary educational institutions.

Taken as a whole then, it would appear that the colleges and universities of Ontario have a great deal to be cautious about when they consider the philosophical thrust of the section of the speech dealing with post-secondary educational institutions.

While promises of additional funding may be welcomed by educational institutions, they will have to consider the price they are going to have to pay—

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, this member's speech should be observed by a quorum of the House, and at this point we do not have one that I can see.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

5:24 p.m.

Mr. McFadden: I am glad to see that some further members have come into the House.

An hon. member: The member had better start over again.

Mr. McFadden: Mr. Speaker, I will not start the speech all over again; I will carry on from where I left off.

As I was saying before we had the quorum call, while promises of additional funding may be welcomed by our post-secondary educational institutions, these institutions will have to consider the price to be paid and will have to read the fine print.

The government has put forward a series of proposals that could attack the foundations on which an excellent system of universities and colleges has been built. Based on what I have seen, intellectual creativity, independence and self-government, free from direct interference from government, are not happening to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Our colleges and universities have a great deal to be concerned about when one reads carefully the proposals in the speech from the throne.

I now turn to a proposal the government persists in doggedly pursuing in spite of the growing body of informed opinion against it. I am speaking of the sale of beer and wine in corner grocery stores. What community or social value is being advanced by this proposal? Will family life be strengthened? Will underage drinking be alleviated? Quite the contrary. One informed organization after another has come out against the government's proposal. Such organizations as the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Medical Association, the Addiction Research Foundation and distinguished physicians who are knowledgeable in the field of addiction have all come out against this proposal.

The problems raised by these various concerned organizations and professionals encompass everything from increased alcohol consumption to increased underage drinking, lost employment for young people and a rise in armed robberies in corner stores. The speech from the throne is a model of inconsistency; it rails against drinking and driving on one page while on another it proposes to make beer and wine available on every corner.

I now turn to health care. In the section entitled "The World-Class System of Care," the speech from the throne states that our system of health care "ranks with the best in the world." I agree with that sentiment; however, recent actions by the government threaten to jeopardize this ranking. A world-class system of health care depends on our ability to keep in Ontario and to attract to this province the best specialists available anywhere. It also depends on the goodwill and the morale of the physicians here and their commitment to service. The current war with our doctors over the Health Care Accessibil-

ity Act and the struggle with our pharmacists over Bills 54 and 55 have created an atmosphere of distrust, division and hostility that has undermined our health care system.

Whether the government will admit it or not, our health care system has been damaged by the current state of acrimony—damage that could prove to be permanent. Future speeches from the throne may refer to the fact that our health care system once ranked with the best in the world, but deteriorated after 1985. I hope this will not occur, but to date I have little room for optimism.

5:30 p.m.

Finally, I turn to a number of important matters that did not even appear in the speech from the throne. In spite of the acute shortage of affordable rental apartments, the speech contained only a passing reference to housing. Hundreds and thousands of tenants, particularly senior citizens and those on fixed incomes, are being threatened with the loss of their affordable apartments because landlords wish to take them over and convert them into luxury units. Most of the senior citizens, such as those living at 11 to 25 Sherwood Avenue in my riding, who were here in the House last week, have absolutely nowhere to go if they are forced out of their affordable apartment units. They cannot afford to move to luxury units and there are literally no other places for them to move. This particular situation has become noticeably more serious over the past year or so.

While the provision of additional units of affordable housing is the answer in the long run, there is an urgent need to pass emergency legislation today to stop the renovation of existing low-cost apartments into high-cost units. It is socially and morally wrong to threaten with eviction, let alone evict, men and women in their 70s, 80s and 90s who cannot find other affordable shelter.

These senior citizens are frightened. In fact, I have known instances where they have been literally frightened to sickness and death by worry over their accommodations and the security of them. The government has an obligation to act. It is disturbing that this critical situation did not even receive an acknowledgement in the speech from the throne.

Another matter of great concern to many families throughout Ontario, which did not even receive a mention from the speech from the throne, is the growing problem of environmental hypersensitivity, sometimes referred to as 20th-century disease. In recent months, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of families

who have children suffering from this disorder. In some cases, victims suffer from respiratory congestion, runny eyes and nausea, which may keep them from school or work for several days. Other people who have an acute case of the disease are so seriously disabled that they cannot function effectively in our society.

Environmental hypersensitivity is very debilitating to the person involved, who suffers from recurring bouts of illness and who must worry constantly about what he or she will eat, breathe or even wear. It is tremendously draining emotionally and financially on the families affected. The disease sufferers require special diets and dust-free and chemical-free homes, which are expensive to secure and maintain. They also require special care, often for long periods, when they have attacks. The people who suffer from this disorder and their families need help.

In November 1984, the government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Judge George Thomson to study environmental hypersensitivity. The committee reported in December 1985 and made some 30 recommendations. It is important to note that this committee recognized the existence of this new disease and proposed a number of measures to assist the sufferers and their families and to further the study of this disorder. Unfortunately, the government has failed to take any action on this report to date, and the speech from the throne does not even mention any measures that may be contemplated.

The final area of concern that I raise is the proposed imposition of market value assessment in the city of Toronto. Assessment is now a provincial responsibility. The government has indicated that it endorses the Goyette report on property tax assessment and will act to force the Metropolitan Toronto municipalities to implement market value assessment, if they fail to move on their own.

The Metropolitan Toronto advisory task force on assessment reform, which was appointed at the government's urging, recommended market value assessment in its April report. While the goals of reassessment may have a certain symmetry and logic, the results of the imposition of market value assessment could be damaging, if not disastrous, for many home owners, particularly senior citizens and young families, notably single-parent families.

It has been government policy to encourage senior citizens to stay in their own homes and to live independent lives as long as they can. This object was reaffirmed in the speech from the

throne under the section "Independent Living for Seniors." The imposition of market value assessment could result in such an increase in property taxes on many homes owned by seniors in north Toronto, for example, that it will turn out to be a deciding factor in forcing these seniors out of their homes.

Where can these seniors go? As I have mentioned, we already have an acute shortage of affordable apartments in north Toronto, and these seniors do not want to be forced to move miles away from their friends, neighbours and families. They would effectively be forced to change their whole style of life and their area of living late in life. That seems to be unfair and unconscionable.

A serious problem will also be created by market value assessment for young families, who have frequently invested every single dime they have in purchasing a home. These families also generally have substantial mortgages. As with the seniors, a significant jump in their property taxes could force them to sell their homes and move away from the neighbourhoods and schools where they hoped to raise and educate their children.

The imposition of market value assessment could cause a rise in property taxes on 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the homes in the northern area of Toronto and in various other areas of the city. North Toronto consists of older, stable neighbourhoods, which are attractive to people of all ages and all income groups. The proposed imposition of market value assessment could break down this diversity and force out many senior citizens and families on modest incomes. Before the government pushes Metropolitan Toronto any further to impose such a reassessment, it should consider the social cost in the neighbourhoods and among the home owners who could be affected adversely.

In conclusion, I cannot support the adoption of the speech from the throne, which is essentially a compendium of rehearsed ideas and misconceived programs. I will support the amendment put forward by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), since it touches on the important areas that the speech from the throne neglects.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Are there any questions or comments?

Mr. Martel: May we ask questions, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker: Yes, you may for two minutes.

Mr. Martel: As my friend talks about hypersensitive environmental problems, I won-

der what he believes we should do. I have a file a good three inches thick from writing to one Tory cabinet minister after another who rejected and refused to help all of these people. Maybe the member could tell us how that is done.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Not one of them?

Mr. Martel: Not one of them. In fact, Frank Drea appointed all kinds of people to do a study, doctors who in fact were opposed. Members will be interested to know their names: Dr. Knight and Dr. Day. Those were the two birds. Both opposed it. They were the representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The member might tell me what his government was prepared to do. I would certainly like to hear it.

With respect to market value assessment, the Tories started fighting elections in 1967—I was there—and have fought elections ever since on market value assessment. Just what is it they are after? Tell the House so we will know.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The questioner should be addressing the question through you to the member.

The Acting Speaker: He is addressing me.

Mr. Martel: I am looking right at him.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I think he is pointing at the honourable member.

The Acting Speaker: This is not a point of order. Continue.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Martel: I was looking directly at the Speaker. One cannot even turn one's eyes sideways around here any more.

I want to ask my friend what the real position of the Tory party is, since it has fought six elections on market value assessment. Does it have another position?

The member might answer two questions. Why has his party refused to help people? I will give him my files, if he wants, to verify it. I could not get a decent response out of one cabinet minister, whether it was the then Minister of Health or the then Minister of Community and Social Services. We even used to pay for people's food at one time, and it was that member's government that cut out the subsistence allowance for people who had that disease. His party refused to change it. We hope the new government will.

Mr. Haggerty: I would like to direct a question to the member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden), who mentioned the negotiations going on now with the medical profession on banning extra billing. In the *Globe and Mail* this

morning there is a headline: "MDs Ask Ottawa to Drop Penalties." Can the member tell me—and I know his government had been negotiating with the Ontario Medical Association for the past couple of years—how he would approach the matter of obtaining the \$100 million that Ontario is being penalized? The federal government has implemented the program that the Conservative Prime Minister has endorsed. How do we get that \$100 million back into the province so that we can provide other programs for the seniors of Ontario, who have been neglected for years?

Mrs. Marland: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Can you clarify for the House the new standing orders? It is my understanding that there can be statements in this period, but that questions have to pertain to the content of the member's speech. Am I correct?

The Acting Speaker: Yes, you are correct. I have followed the conversation very closely, and it does pertain to comments and to questions.

Mrs. Marland: But the question was about an article that was in the *Globe and Mail* this morning.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Eglinton has two minutes to answer the comments.

Mr. McFadden: I will start with the question of environmental hypersensitivity. I do not need a lecture from the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) about caring about people in my riding.

Mr. Martel: Do not give me that nonsense.

Mr. McFadden: Do not give me any more nonsense about this.

Mr. Martel: Why did the member's government not do anything?

Mr. McFadden: It was not my government; I was not a member of the cabinet at that time, to begin with.

Second, there was a tremendous amount of difference of opinion within the medical profession about whether this disease even existed. The reason the Thomson Committee on Environmental Hypersensitivity was set up was to settle the difference of opinion. In my view, the Thomson report has settled that debate and the government should now get on with providing assistance to these families.

I do not believe there is any sense in pointing fingers at what previous governments might have done. The Thomson committee has made a finding. Now the medical areas have agreed with that finding and, in my view, something should be done for these families. It is not satisfactory or even sensible to attack other members for raising

matters that are of concern to them and their constituents.

As far as market value assessment is concerned, it was not the policy of our government to impose it across Ontario. It was left to local option by the province, as this House well knows. In fact, the former government made the decision not to impose market value assessment on Toronto because of the kind of impact that I pointed out already. That is why it was never introduced here.

As for medicare and the federal government, the current government has been talking about the \$50 million that the province is foregoing. It has now spent it—in more ways than one.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member's time is up.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to take part in this debate on the throne speech and to add my comments and observations on what has been going on in this House. I might say as a start that the first eight or nine months of this minority government held considerable promise. The public, the voters of Ontario, liked what they saw, in my opinion. There appeared to be a desperately needed new direction for the majority of Ontarians.

Mr. Sheppard: What will happen after the next election? There will be only 10 NDPs left.

Mr. Mackenzie: Spit out the peach pits.

That minority, that very special group of average citizens comprised of the workers of Ontario, who toil for a living and pay taxes—heavy taxes in many cases and not very fair taxes at that—the pensioners of the province, who were trying to maintain a standard and the worth of their standard of living on pensions which constantly slipped in purchasing power; the unemployed, the disadvantaged and the handicapped, who never had the full advantages enjoyed by the rest of us—all of these people were looking for a possible new direction for the province.

It also included some environmentalists, certain professional groups in Ontario and tenants who cut across all classifications. All of them felt a renewed hope that issues they considered vital, whether to their own self interest or of wide vital necessity to our province, finally were going to be addressed and receive some action by the government of Ontario.

This hope—and that is what it was, hope—was triggered by two significant and truly unexpected events in the province. The first was the defeat after 42 years of a government which seemed to have forgotten that there were nine million

people in Ontario. The polarization of that government's support for those who had it made and for some of the business interests in this province—the establishment in Ontario—was matched only by its arrogance. It had forgotten and did not deal with the vast majority of people in Ontario, whom it had chosen not to support, perhaps without even fully realizing it. In the last four years of majority Conservative government, I doubt whether there was an opposition member in this chamber—certainly not in the New Democratic Party caucus—who did not feel frustrated to a degree never encountered before. I know I have felt frustrated in the last four years I have sat in the House.

This arrogance was driven home to me in a way which defied common sense by an experience towards the end of that government's reign in the former standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments. There, the former member for Humber, Mr. Kells, had decided that many apartments in the Etobicoke-Lakeshore area should be allowed to become adults-only apartments. He launched a campaign almost single-handedly, except for managing to convince the poor former member for Lakeshore, Mr. Kolyn, to side with him. He wrote literally thousands of letters to people in that constituency threatening that if his move to allow the conversion did not go through, apartment dwellers, particularly those who were slightly better off, were somehow or other going to suffer the consequences.

It was so obviously a Morley Kells promotion that one can only speculate on the reason. Every single group that appeared before that committee—tenants, community organizations, children's aid societies, aldermen, even Tory aldermen, I might say—desperately opposed the move that was being made by these members. These groups effectively pointed out the almost zero vacancy rate in the riding. The arrogance showed even to the extent that a young woman who worked for the children's aid society and who was working on a project about the effects of inadequate housing on children, was challenged on her right to work with such a group and appear before the committee on this issue. Most of the committee members could not understand the vehemence of the government member's position or even the move by another Tory ex-member, Mr. Rotenberg, who, supposedly trying to help, suggested that we stall the process in the House a little bit.

These former members are no longer in this House. In the case of two of them, there is no

doubt in my mind that their actions in representing so well and so effectively only 20 per cent of their constituents, while giving the back of their hands to the other 80 per cent, are the major reasons to cost them their seats. It also typifies the Tory approach that we in this House went through and it proves the arrogance that bothered so many of us. It showed that no matter how powerful somebody is, that arrogance eventually comes home to roost.

5:50 p.m.

The Tories paid the cost in the last election. Unfortunately, I have seen little evidence to date. The Tories paid the cost in the last election; unfortunately, I have seen little evidence to date that they have learned a thing from their experience.

The second point that led to the change was the ability of the two former opposition parties, the Liberals and the New Democrats, to forge an accord to allow some degree of co-operation so that a new non-Conservative government could take power after some 42 years of Conservative rule in Ontario.

For the Liberals, I suggest it was not too difficult. They were second and very close to the Conservatives, however unexpectedly, and they could literally smell power. As well, they had run on a populist platform, much more so than was usually the case, which had registered with the public. Indeed, some of the issues they ran on were straight, long-time NDP issues that they had previously rejected. Banning extra billing by doctors is a case in point.

The issues the Liberals ran on in the election campaign may or may not have reflected a change in Liberal philosophy—that will soon be apparent for all in Ontario to see—but they did reflect the fact that the Liberals had read the danger to the Conservatives and the opening provided to the opposition by the march to the right of the Conservative government. In the mad rush by the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) to out-right the world's Reagans, Thatchers and Mulroneys, which was so obvious at the time and apparently now is obvious to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick as well, the Tories insulted the voters of Ontario. They failed to note that the old pendulum had stopped its swing to the right and was slowly coming back to more common sense and to good judgement decisions.

For New Democrats, it was a little more difficult, but the decision to support the change could not be denied. The difficulty for us was, why should we trust the Liberals who in the past

on issue after issue had been little different from the Conservatives? Why should we trust a conversion in policy on the road to an election? Would the support of the Liberals somehow compromise the consistency of the democratic-socialist principles most of us stood for? Would it compromise our consistent support for workers, tenants, the socially disadvantaged, environmentalists and organized labour? Faced with a history of nothing but arrogance from the Conservatives and promises in writing from the Liberals, it seemed worth the obvious gamble.

What sealed the deal as far as I am concerned was the reaction we all experienced on the election hustings last time around. I suspect a large number of members and candidates got the same response I did. In larger numbers than ever before, voters seemed to be saying, "The only time we get any attention is during a minority government." We heard that comment time and time again. It seemed almost as though voter cynicism was winning the political battle over any party's election promises, that only during minority government could some kind of wheeling and dealing work to the voters' advantage.

With that voter perception, we had to decide whether to try to make the minority government given to us by the voters work or whether our political purity was more important to us. There was nothing to expect or trust in the Conservative record and even less in the new Conservative leadership. There was at least on the part of the Liberals a correct reading of the public's perception, a populist campaign and a willingness to put an agreement in writing.

The course for New Democrats was clear, to negotiate the very best agreement we could, give it a time frame and then work consistently to make it work. We could not be sidetracked with worry as to who would get the credit for such an agreement. That is what the New Democrats have done. Part of the accord, which we signed for a two-year period, allows us to speak up with the strength of our convictions on issues when we feel the government is wrong or is not carrying out those outlined in the accord. I do not think we have hesitated to do that so far in this parliament.

To return to my opening remarks, for the first eight or nine months things seemed to be on course. Things were not always exactly as we would have liked them to be in this House, but most of the items in the accord were either under way or being debated in committee.

I have a concern about the throne speech presented to this House on April 22, though I have been here long enough to realize that

speeches from the throne do not always mean too much. I hope the budget, which will come down on May 13, will put this House back on track. Members will understand my concern with a speech from the throne that seemed to signal a change in direction. It was a speech that sounded, to me at least—and I have heard other members say the same thing—very much like the past 10 or 12 Conservative speeches from the throne to which I have listened in this House. It was a speech totally lacking in any clear direction, with verbiage that should bother all concerned and progressive members, entrepreneurial buzzwords that leave confusion rather than clear understanding, and no clear direction on any number of issues that are of concern and importance to Ontario.

One can be forgiven for wondering whether this government has decided in the most crass political terms that in the first eight or nine months it has initiated—and note that I say “initiate,” not “completed”—most of the measures in the accord and enough progressive measures to calm the workers in Ontario for a time. It appears this government has decided the Liberals must get back to their more traditional business approach and should now be trying to solidify their position by winning some of the Conservative establishment constituency. That would be a betrayal of hopes, and I trust it is not really the case, although in political terms I understand the desire to take advantage of the obvious Conservative floundering in this House.

Let me outline clearly my concern over the issues that are so vital to all of us, but appear to have no place or focus in the speech from the throne. There was nothing to indicate any real action in terms of the continuing and disturbing patterns of corporate rationalization—or is “restructuring” now the buzzword that results in plants being closed across this province?

We can accept that modern technology and changing patterns of ownership are a natural evolution if those changes offer protection for those who work for the companies involved, but that does not seem to be the case. We need only to look at some examples around us. The workers at Dominion Stores have suffered through the self-aggrandizement of one Conrad Black. Their company has been reduced from being a leader in the retail field to a poor follower. Their jobs are gone and even the surpluses in their pension fund have been skimmed off by Mr. Black.

Let us take a look at one of the examples with which I am personally familiar and which I have raised in this House a number of times. Two and

a half years after the closure, there are still 30 to 40 older workers of Consolidated-Bathurst in Hamilton who are not employed. The vast majority of those who have gone back to work are working at considerably lower wages.

A decision of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which awarded them \$300,000 because the company was proven to have bargained in bad faith, was challenged by the company in the courts. Here is a company which conveniently decided during the negotiations for a new contract, six months or less before that contract was to expire, that it was not very important to tell the workers who had spent their lives with the company that it intended to close down the plant. So much for the importance of people in our province. Having been ordered to pay for this significant oversight, the company is now spending thousands of dollars fighting the Ontario Labour Relations Board decision in the courts.

6 p.m.

The ex-workers of Consolidated-Bathurst cannot resolve pension moneys where they do not have a vested pension, nor can they receive the benefits of the OLRB decision because of the company's current action before the courts. In many cases, they have spent their life savings. At least six workers that I am aware of—and I knew two or three personally—have now died and their families have not seen any benefits from the settlement. Their families are still waiting. One of the workers was a suicide thought to be caused by the closure and the disruption of his life since that closure. Where is the fairness and benevolence in our laws protecting workers in Ontario?

The Rexnord plant in Toronto closed down at the end of January. The Canron plant in St. Thomas is now in the process of closing down most of its operation. We were talking about the Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant today. In plant after plant, the workers are the losers. The workers in the steel mill and in the tube mill of Algoma Steel join thousands who have already received shabby treatment in terms of the importance of their life and contribution to Ontario. The cases that could be cited—and I have named only four or five of them—are legion. We see no move to make the workers in Ontario a top priority.

There is nothing that calls for earlier layoff notices; there is nothing that calls for any form of public justification for closures in Ontario, something the New Democrats have called for for a long time. There is nothing in the way of setting up public enterprise centres, which might

allow for the possibility of worker co-ops, alternative purchase or joint ventures to protect some of the workers in plants faced with closure.

There is nothing in the way of planning for import replacement to protect and provide additional jobs in Canada. There is nothing in place to try to stem, or even correct, a branch-plant economy in which many of the branch plants in this province can neither export nor do adequate research and development because of the rules set down by the head office in the United States or whatever the country of origin may be.

Our severance-pay provisions under the Employment Standards Act, which many of us had hoped would be the start of something good, are breached more often than they are practised. We see no real improvement coming at all. Where are the safety and health issues in this throne speech?

All of this points out the lack of any real plan for Ontario, of any industrial and economic strategy that clearly points the province in a direction that will allow us both to compete and to recognize that our most valuable resource is our people. This seems to be totally lacking in Ontario. This province does not recognize that competition without a major job protection component is as deadly and self-defeating as would be a retreat to the conditions of the last century.

There is none of this protection in this province and there is none of this planning in the throne speech we have just heard. I guess we are supposed to put all our hopes in a \$50-million-a-year expenditure on technology. What is this expenditure to accomplish? What is it tied to in terms of existing or new industry or development? Will it make us more competitive with the United States, Japan or Europe, or is it simply an empty gesture? This is not a lot of money for this purpose, but what bothers me even more is that it appears to be tied to no specific plan. I do not understand what it means and I suspect that few other members in this chamber really understand what it means. I hope it works, but on the basis of what was in the throne speech, it seems as if we are being asked to accept yet another leap of faith in Ontario.

Perhaps the most disheartening point of all is one of the comments of the Premier himself. I sincerely hope the Premier's remarks were nothing more than a temporary lapse of judgement, which all of us can suffer from time to time. However, if they were not, then God help this government, for in my opinion, the com-

ments give credence to what is lacking in the speech from the throne.

The comments seem to be defining a new word for the unemployed. It seems that the government does not want to talk about the unemployed any more. I shuddered when I heard the remark "unfortunate byproducts of an economic transformation" from the Premier of this province. I truly hope it is not his intent, because he is not going to stop the misery of unemployment by changing its name.

I looked in vain in the throne speech for answers to the phenomenon of part-time and low-paying jobs. I was hoping for a return to real apprenticeship programs based on the levy grant approach. As this House must know, we have fewer in apprenticeship programs now than we had two or three years ago.

With our ageing population well documented in the current demographics, I looked for details of a home care program. I looked for more extended care facilities to ease the pressure on our acute care beds in hospitals, and it is simply not spelled out in adequate detail. Additional assistance for older women and for those reduced to disability and welfare payments was not spelled out. Once again, people in need did not seem to be a high priority in Ontario.

I personally searched in vain for measures to increase the facilities and assistance for families with children suffering from dyslexia or for families in which a member is in need of special prosthesis equipment. My thoughts went immediately to a family in my riding, a steelworker who has just spent \$13,000 to send his son to the Sheila Morrison School near Orillia because other facilities are not available and the waiting lists in Ontario are too long. My thoughts went to another family where an expenditure of \$3,000 was necessary for a TENS implant, or transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator, to allow this woman to carry on a normal life. The implant is not covered by the Ontario health insurance plan. The advice I got from the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), when I wrote to him about the matter, was to suggest she canvass the service clubs in the riding to see whether they could give her some assistance towards the \$3,000. I find that very difficult to accept.

I could go on, but the bottom line is there is no indication in the speech from the throne that people-oriented necessities were planned, specifically laid out or in some cases even thought of.

To make another point, an issue that has the potential to affect us more than anything is a

bilateral free trade agreement with the United States. There is nothing to suggest that the Premier and his government take the federal Conservative initiative seriously. I am not sure the Liberal government even fully understands the implications of such a step. The Premier has the authority to stop these talks almost cold, but he has opted instead to accept that the talks are a good idea and that we can protect ourselves from any adverse consequences by negotiating out certain of our social, cultural and economic concerns. Every shred of evidence says that is not so or means that in the true sense of negotiations, when we achieve or get some benefit from the table, we will trade off some Canadian benefit to protect ourselves. Can the Premier tell us where the benefits will lie in such a negotiating stance?

Surely Mr. Yeutter's speech to the businessmen's club in Calgary on February 28 should have been warning enough. He said countervailing duties, the US protectionism measures, were not on the table, but everything else was. He said clearly we should not expect a five-year to 10-year phase-in period. What more does the Premier and this government need?

Here we are starting probably the most crucial negotiations in the history of our nation and we have already traded away several of our aces—the Foreign Investment Review Agency, the national energy policy, cruise missile testing—all the things that would have been worth their weight in gold to us in negotiations. It also looks as if the softwood lumber issue will join the list before we have even started the true negotiations.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs face dislocation because of these free trade talks, and absolutely no one I have heard has been able to identify the gains clearly. We are again asked to take a leap of faith in one of the most important and serious sets of negotiations we have ever entered into in this country.

It is not just jobs that will be lost. Even more important is the very direction and future of our country. On the level playing field we are asked to start from in the talks with our giant American friends to the south, we will have to discuss all the programs we fought so hard for that make us unique as a country. In effect, we will have to negotiate with a foreign power such things as unemployment insurance benefits, provincial workers' compensation benefits, a superior health care system and pensions, and the regional incentive programs that help to deal with high unemployment in certain areas of this country. Our basic culture, our very direction as a

nation—in short, the things that establish our Canadian sovereignty—will be on that table.

What is even more appalling is that this is not coming from Canadians or Americans or most of their politicians. It is coming from Mr. Reagan and his executives in the White House and from Mr. Mulroney and his Conservative Party. This is a deal cooked up at the Quebec summit meeting and launched during a rendition of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," a major move that was cloaked in as little information as the government could get away with. The Conservatives knew instinctively that the more Canadians understood what was at stake, the more they would oppose it. Therefore, it was, "Say as little as possible and if some of the negative information gets out, be prepared to do a selling job." All this was in the background papers we were given that were presented to the federal Tory caucus.

6:10 p.m.

It seems that deceit was part of that program. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Mulroney's free trade initiative is not far removed from treason against this country and all its people. What is disturbing is the almost casual way in which the Premier is treating such a fundamental move, which would affect the course of our country, our province and its institutions.

We have a commitment from this government and the throne speech to make beer and wine available in corner stores and probably to have a more open Sunday shopping policy. These are moves that raise more questions and problems than they answer. They are moves that threaten reasonably paid, permanent full-time jobs and at the same time increase the availability of booze for those groups that are most vulnerable, basically the young and those who already are heavy drinkers. Such moves would threaten the already weakened family day or day of rest, which is still basic to our values and cultural structure in Ontario.

My reading of the situation is that this is not one of urgent priority for the people of Ontario. A recent survey of the constituents in my provincial riding of Hamilton East indicated that 57 per cent of 1,045 respondents to the questionnaire we sent out opposed a more open Sunday shopping policy and 39.9 per cent supported such a move. Almost the same percentage applied in the case of the sale of beer and wine in the corner store. I might point out this was in a working-class riding which has a large number of shift workers. There was no strong indication of any support.

I will compare that, if I can, with the indication of support I got for public auto insurance, which

was supported by 78 per cent and opposed by only 14 per cent of those responding to the questionnaire. Auto insurance is costing Ontario drivers a lot of money. There is a realization now across this country that it can be provided in a better way. Other provinces are proving it but there is no clear direction of this in the throne speech. Which would be more of a priority for people? Would it be beer and wine in the corner stores, Sunday shopping, or something of value, such as a public auto insurance plan?

Once again I ask, where are our priorities? Those same 1,045 responses to my riding report asked about indexed pensions. There were 89.6 per cent in favour and only 5.8 per cent opposed. When I think of what we have gone through with the Workers' Compensation Board and pensions generally—and we still do not have that kind of legislation, but instead, we allow the surpluses to be skimmed out—it makes me wonder whether we have started to lose sight of some of the priorities.

A limit on overtime is an issue that has been raised many times, and will be raised again with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) in the next day or two. In those 1,045 responses, a total of 86.8 per cent were in favour of limiting overtime and 83 per cent said that current levels of overtime were not acceptable in Ontario. We asked separate questions, putting them in different ways. What is the government direction in this area? Incidentally, it holds a major promise in terms of spreading around the available work, something we need to do in Ontario, creating much needed jobs for the unemployed.

If I can be parochial for a moment, what encouragement can a heavy industrial city such as Hamilton read into the speech from the throne? I saw nothing to indicate an understanding of the major changes that would be needed to help cities such as Hamilton meet the challenge of a major restructuring and downsizing of employment in its traditional heavy industries. For example, there is no real encouragement for a major waterfront development in Hamilton. There are no suggestions for a steel labour institute such as some of us have requested for a long time. There are no innovative plans for enterprise centres that could provide the expertise and funding, as well as the physical plant, to design, develop and market some of the new ideas in technology that are coming from the research being done at McMaster University, both medical and scientific. There is no speed-up of the very essential GO Transit line from downtown Hamilton to downtown Toronto. It would seem that a major

industrial centre such as Hamilton, which has specific problems, must take comfort in the very general rhetoric of the government's throne speech.

The biggest economic game in town, I suggest, should not be the latest corporate takeover battle which offers nothing in the way of jobs. In Ontario, the biggest game in town should be a very clear, economic and industrial strategy that would recognize people and their rights to jobs, education, health care and a clean environment as the rationale for any and all plans for development in Ontario and in this country of ours, Canada.

This is the direction I believe the voters of Ontario wanted a new government to take. The initial start was encouraging and has won some support. If, God forbid, this government now thinks it can chart a course on its own agenda without clearly following through on programs that establish people as a priority rather than the corporate bottom-line financial profit-and-loss statements, then it will pay a heavy price. It will not take 42 years or even a small fraction of that to destroy the renewed hope that we have seen in Ontario. It will also possibly develop a fatal system in terms of our political and democratic structure amongst the voters of Ontario. In other words, for a very short-term electoral gain, this government threatens us with paying a very severe price if it gets off track on the positive things that it started out doing.

With all the sincerity and co-operation I can offer, I urge this government to get back on course, putting people and a fairer society first, and indicate it very clearly in the budget, because it surely was not in the speech from the throne we had delivered to us on April 22.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments? There being no questions or comments, the member for York East.

Ms. Hart: It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the speech from the throne. For the first time in more than 80 years, the riding of York East is represented by a Liberal member. In the recent by-election, the people of York East were presented with excellent candidates from each of the three major parties, and yet they chose to exercise their franchise in a different way by exercising it in support of the government led by the Premier and to endorse the openness and responsiveness characterized by this government.

I am proud and honoured to be the new representative for York East and I will devote all my energies and abilities to showing myself

worthy of the confidence demonstrated by my constituents. I am mindful of the responsibility and I welcome the challenge.

My community, the riding of York East, represents all that is richest and yet most problematic about our society. The richness is there in abundance, with the mix of ethnic communities sinking their roots into a community already deeply rooted in Ontario's history, the mix of young and old, of female and male, and the mix of the long-standing traditions of Leaside, the serenity and perfectly landscaped gardens of old East York and the vibrancy of the brash young upstart of the past 20 years of Thorncliffe Park, the place where all communities and ages come together.

All three communities display an uncommon interest in the issues of the day. Six community newspapers thrive, and every church and community centre is fully utilized all the time. I am pleased and proud to live amongst people with such strong traditional values and yet with the energy and foresight to create healthy, happy neighbourhoods that will serve our needs well into the next century.

The problems are there as well, although not as abundant, but they are important and deserving of our deepest attention. In a sense, the problems are the inevitable concomitant of the richness. There is the problem of ensuring that our population of seniors is not only cared for but also cared for in a way that preserves their dignity and independence and, most important, allows them to continue to contribute to the life of our society. There is the responsibility of ensuring that the members of all our communities are given the opportunity to put their talents and their energy to the best use for our society.

I believe our government in its short life has made an enormous contribution to solving these problems. The policies outlined in the speech from the throne indicate a continuing and deepening commitment to the resolution of those problems.

6:20 p.m.

Let me begin with the question of care for seniors. As the speech from the throne indicated, the percentage of seniors in our society is increasing yearly, so that by the end of this century approximately 41 per cent more of our population will be over the age of 65.

The implications of that number are several. In the first instance, our health care facilities must be upgraded and expanded to accommodate the increased care that an ageing population demands. To that end, the commitment contained

in the throne speech to capital expenditures on hospitals, to assuring the quality of life of nursing home residents and to community support services for seniors is critically important.

However, my experience in York East has taught me that the needs of seniors cannot be met simply by more and better health care facilities. The burden on our government is at once more subtle and more profound. That burden is to ensure that seniors are able to stay in their homes and their communities for as long as they desire. More than that, it is to ensure that seniors are allowed to contribute to society in direct and meaningful ways for as long as they want.

The fulfilling of that burden draws the government to the core of its obligations. I am proud that this government has in its throne speech placed itself on the cutting edge of fulfilling those obligations by its commitment to developing the means to ensure the independence of seniors by its emphasis on programs to allow seniors to live independently in their own communities and by its support for community organizations in the development of recreational services and activities for the retired.

I would like to turn my attention to the environment for a moment. In our complex economy of today, we are faced with some very tough choices. Is the creation of a job worth the risk that a worker must undertake in handling dangerous substances in the performance of that job? Is the need for an industry providing taxes to the municipality overridden by the need for our neighbourhoods not to have dangerous substances travelling through them?

There are no easy answers to these questions. However, I am most encouraged to see the emphasis in the speech from the throne on environmental issues. The need to preserve our air, soil and water for future generations has always been a priority for me personally, and I look forward to participating in the process of finding innovative and effective means of ensuring their preservation.

Closer to home, I share the concerns of my constituents in York East about the proposed Torvalley Development of the brickworks site just south of Bennington Heights Crescent and the Governor's Bridge neighbourhoods. The north slope of the Don Valley has been designated for historic preservation by the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro), but the issue is still undecided with respect to the valley floor. This government has shown sensitivity to the problem of the development of such an environmentally sensitive site. I look forward to

working with my colleagues in bringing about a solution that will free these lands for the least damaging use possible.

York East is a microcosm of Ontario in its rich mix of ethnic groups. It is not enough to acknowledge the existence of these groups and, in so doing, to believe we have fulfilled our duty to them. No; more is demanded of our government.

In the weeks I spent talking with people in York East, no image recurred more frequently than that of the springtime of hope. That hope is born of the belief that the old barriers are gone and that all groups in our society can now contribute to the governing of their lives. I had not understood in a direct and visceral way how heavy was the dead weight of 42 years of governing by close connection to one group, how oppressive that had been to all those whose talents and ambition cried out for their rightful place in our governing structures. It was oppressive to the old, to the young, to women, to Canadians of Greek, Filipino, South Asian, African and Chinese descent, as it was to the members of all our ethnic communities and to all those not included in a tired, narrow, dispirited governing class.

I said during the campaign that the Tories governed by fear, that they governed by patronage and that they governed in secret. Until I talked to the people of York East—the Judy Arrowoods, the Jack Prattases, the Bill Tatsious, the Mila Velshis, the Ray Edamuras, the Molly Washingtons, the Mel Catres and the Mario Bernardis—I had not fully understood how that deadened the hopes and the aspirations of so many fine individuals whose energies and talents we desperately need.

I believe those days are gone and that they are gone because of the commitment of this government to openness, to advancement based on merit and to advancement regardless of sex, colour or national background.

I support our government's continued commitment to freedom of information legislation. I support the commitment contained in the throne speech to continue to make appointments to agencies, boards and commissions which ensure that those bodies are representative of all groups in society and of all walks of life.

Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me to conclude on a personal note, I spent yesterday afternoon in one of the parks in York East in an open air celebration of Greek Orthodox Easter. While applying the final basting to the spring lamb, which had been roasting on the spit since 6 a.m., my host, Sotiris Gambroudis, told me that for every one of the 11 years since his family had come to this country, it had gathered in that park for that celebration. It had done so in the rain, in the snow and, as it did yesterday, in the warm spring sunshine.

That tradition is not just a celebration of a cultural heritage; it is also in a subtle but profound way a celebration of a commitment to this province and to what it has to offer. I have been deeply enriched by the love and friendship of these people. I know all of us can be as well. This government truly opened its doors to all of our citizens and, in so doing, it has begun that enriching process. For that, as embodied in the speech from the throne, it has my heartfelt support.

On motion by Ms. Hart, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(125 members)

Second Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC**Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer****Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC**

- Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
 Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
 Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
 Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
 Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
 Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
 Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)
Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)
 Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC)
 Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)
 Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)
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*Lists published on the first Monday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, May 6, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May, 6, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BUDGET

Mr. Andrewes: I would like to take this opportunity to make a small request of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). He is fully aware that the economy of Ontario continues to grow at a rapid rate, partially as the result of excellent management by previous governments. This booming economy, which is projected to grow twice as fast as the Treasurer predicted last fall, will net the government a revenue windfall of at least \$2 billion this year.

Major tax changes announced in the 1985 federal budget will bring an additional \$525 million into the government's coffers, even after taking into account the \$275 million the Treasurer believes the province will lose as a result of the decrease in transfer payments and the effect of capital gains exemption.

This money, when combined with the massive tax increase of \$700 million contained in the Treasurer's previous budget, will give the province a net revenue gain of more than \$3,225,000,000 million for 1986.

In the light of this major windfall the government finds itself with, my request to the Treasurer is that he reduce taxes in the upcoming budget, take steps to reduce the provincial deficit and increase funding to a number of critical areas. The Treasurer has the resources and the flexibility to accomplish this. I hope he will take this opportunity to provide some relief to the beleaguered taxpayers of the province and to ensure that the economy will continue to grow at a healthy rate.

DAY CARE DAY

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I rise in the House today to mark Day Care Day in Toronto. There will be a day-long series of activities on the issue.

Day Care Day comes at a time when the federal government has set up yet another committee to discuss the needs of child care despite the fact that the issue is already well known to us. I will be appearing before that

special parliamentary committee on child care tomorrow to urge it to finally take the action that is required to guarantee universally accessible child care as a right in this country and not as a privilege.

Day Care Day also comes at a time when the cost to a family that is placing an 18-month-old infant in child care in Toronto averages \$5,893 a year. There are some nonprofit centres where parents pay up to \$6,760 a year, which is more than the cost of a day student at Upper Canada College.

Finally, I note that the activities of Day Care Day stand in marked contrast to the inaction of this Liberal government on child care. Despite the kind words of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) on the subject, we still do not know what is being planned by the ministry. Words are not enough. They will not serve the crying needs of children for whom there are no spaces or of families that cannot afford the existing spaces. It is time we knew what the government is going to do about day care, and Day Care Day is the perfect day to find out.

CHIROPRACTIC AMATEUR ATHLETIC FUND

Mr. Reyecraft: Last Friday the London Chiropractic Society launched a week of activities with its eighth annual Spinal Health Week banquet. The society is using the week to showcase the chiropractic amateur athletic fund which its members have established.

A large number of young Canadian athletes is now training for the 1988 summer and winter Olympics. Many of them have attained the necessary calibre to win medals. However, unless they receive the best coaching and assistance with training, travel and living expenses, they will be unable to participate fully in international athletic events. Because of the current circumstances, the fund has been established to ensure that amateur athletes get the assistance they require.

For years, athletes and chiropractors have had a special relationship. A large number of our finest and most promising athletes call upon the services of chiropractors to aid them in physical preparation. Now London and Middlesex chiro-

practitioners are offering citizens an opportunity to help our amateur athletes too.

The chiropractic amateur athletic fund will enable many of our athletes to look forward to meaningful participation in the 1988 Olympics and international sporting events. I want to draw to this Legislature's attention this very fine and noble effort by the London Chiropractic Society.

SENIOR CITIZENS' HOUSING

Mr. Sheppard: Because of an overwhelming demand for senior citizens' housing in Cobourg and surrounding municipalities, the Cobourg Legion has incorporated a nonprofit housing corporation called Branch 133 Legion Village. This multi-year building project was laid out in a three-stage implementation. The objective of the entire project was and is to provide a place where people aged 50 and up can reside in the confidence that their changing needs will be met. This facility relieves the residents of anxiety concerning where they will live and how they will cope should they suffer infirmity. Thus far, phases 1 and 2 have been completed. They are fully operational and extremely successful in fulfilling their mandate. There are waiting lists to get into both facilities at the complex.

Initially, the federal government and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. approved and very warmly welcomed the overall plan for the Cobourg Legion Village with the stipulation that it be built in three phases. Unfortunately, the jurisdiction of this facility has subsequently been transferred to the provincial government and everything has stopped there. To everyone's dismay, including municipal officials, local housing groups and the senior citizen population, phase 3 was not included in the provincial government's 1986 building program nor is it on any sort of a priority list for 1986-87 construction.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Sheppard: The completion of this project was to have been under way right now.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired.

Mr. Sheppard: I urge the minister to make completion of this third phase a top priority and to do so now.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired.

SPRAY PROGRAM

Mr. Laughren: I rise because of my concern about what is happening within the Ministry of

Natural Resources. Members will recall that before the House adjourned for the Christmas break, it was announced by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) that no chemicals would be used in the spraying of Ontario's forests. Since that time, Ontario's executive co-ordinator of forest resources declared before a national conference on forestry in Ottawa that governments and others who refuse to use chemicals in spraying are irresponsible.

I do not know how government members feel about the minister, but I do not feel irresponsible in calling for a ban on the use of chemicals in spraying our forests in order to control the budworm.

It is important to understand that when governments announce policy, people responsible for implementing that policy have a responsibility to do just that. I am not suggesting for a moment that this government use the heavy, arbitrary hand the previous minister in the previous government used when his senior officials spoke out, but as long as senior people within government do not implement policies determined in a very democratic way by the government, those policies will never be implemented. It is time the Minister of Natural Resources had a serious talk with senior officials in his ministry.

CANCER TREATMENT CENTRES

Mr. Wildman: It is obvious that we have a need to upgrade and modernize Ontario's cancer treatment centres. Since the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) is concerned with accessibility to health care in this province, I expect he will be making an announcement in the near future in regard to allocation of funds for improvement to cancer treatment facilities in Ontario.

It is imperative that existing facilities in Toronto be upgraded with new technologies and approaches to care and that new facilities be provided in southern Ontario. It is even more imperative that the minister provide the funds needed for community-based programs in other cities across the province. The highly skilled physicians practising outside the Ontario Cancer Treatment Research Foundation must also be provided with the modern facilities they need to serve the people in the outlying communities in the north, as well as in southern Ontario.

The Sudbury cancer treatment centre requires significant funding to meet its mandate. Community-based programs in cities such as Sault Ste. Marie must be funded as well. Funding to be announced by the minister must not be

directed completely to Toronto or southern Ontario. Northern Ontario needs modern cancer treatment facilities too. Similarly, funding in the north must be shared among northern communities besides Sudbury, such as Sault Ste. Marie, if the needs of northern cancer patients are to be met.

MULTICULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Mr. Callahan: I want to take a very quick opportunity to invite all members of the Legislature, as well as those who may be viewing us today, to an excellent multicultural extravaganza that occurs in Brampton. One can see a sampling of the entire event on June 30 at the Lester B. Pearson Memorial Theatre at 7:30 p.m. or attend some of the 16 pavilions we will be conducting on July 5 and 6.

TOURISM IN EASTERN ONTARIO

Mr. Villeneuve: I want to make a few comments regarding tourism in eastern Ontario as announced by the government in its speech from the throne. Wheat harvesting has been a very positive aspect of attracting tourists from Quebec and New York state. It is my understanding that the chances are that we could lose this project in eastern Ontario. I urge the government to promote tourism by maintaining this very special program.

VISITORS

Mr. Brandt: I ask the indulgence of the House to introduce members of a Sarnia delegation who are in the gallery. This will take me only a moment. They are Mayor Marceil Saddy, Alderman Doug Bain, John Robertson, city manager, and Rick Draker, director of planning. We are pleased to have them here.

Mr. Speaker: I am certain the members are pleased to welcome all guests in the galleries today. However, I must remind members that this should take place during members' statements.

2:13 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Most Canadians take for granted the human rights that we enjoy in our country. Now and again, however, we have occasion to be reminded of just how precious those rights really are. We in this House are presented with such an occasion today.

In 1976, there began a so-called dirty war waged by the military junta in Argentina against what it described as terrorism. Between 1976 and 1979, an estimated 9,000 to 30,000 Argentinian infants, youths and adults disappeared. Since then, every Thursday in Buenos Aires, a group of mothers don white scarves embroidered with the names of their missing children and march in the Plaza del Mayo in front of the presidential palace.

This afternoon I have the honour and privilege, as minister responsible for human rights, of introducing to members Mrs. Renee Epelbaum, one of the "Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo." Her three children, aged 25, 23 and 20, were among those who disappeared in 1976. She and other mothers have travelled throughout North America and western Europe when they can, trying to ensure that the fate of their children is not forgotten. I know all members join me in paying tribute to the courage and devotion that she and all the mothers display in the face of grave personal danger.

The commitment and unfailing faith of this group of women, demonstrating peacefully for a full accounting of all missing children, speaking openly and critically in the face of oppression and dedicating themselves to the cause of the disappeared and the cause of human rights in Argentina, serve as a beacon to the world.

Renee Epelbaum and her colleagues deserve our heartfelt gratitude and our unstinting support. Mrs. Epelbaum is in the members' east gallery. I ask her to stand and be recognized.

Mr. Gillies: On behalf of the official opposition, I would like to join the Minister of Labour in a warm greeting to Mrs. Renee Epelbaum. Mrs. Epelbaum and her colleagues probably would never understand that people in a free country such as ours often take their freedoms and human rights for granted. It is our hope in this party, and I am sure of all members, that some day she and her countrymen will be able to step out from the shadows and themselves bask in the sunlight of universal human rights. I am delighted she is able to visit us as a symbol of the courage of an oppressed people.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I wish to join in the welcome to Mrs. Renee Epelbaum. It was approximately five years ago that some representatives of the mothers and grandmothers from the Plaza del Mayo came before our caucus and told us of their fight. We saw at first hand the incredible courage of those women. They set an example in those days and are an example now to parents and

families in Chile and Guatemala, where children are also disappearing under repressive regimes. They are a wonderful example to us all, and it is an honour that she has joined us today.

INSURANCE RATES

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am pleased to table in the House the report of the Ontario Task Force on Insurance. As members will recall, the task force was established on January 9, 1986, to address issues related to cost and capacity problems in the property and casualty insurance markets.

Dr. David Slater chaired the task force. I am most appreciative of the fine work this task force has achieved. I want to express my sincere congratulations to Dr. Slater, his support and administrative staff, the policy advisory group and general counsel, on a job exceedingly well done. A special mention for their contribution goes to Deborah Coyne, who acted as executive director, and Murray Thompson, superintendent of insurance. Dr. Slater and Deborah Coyne are in the members' gallery, and I ask that members recognize them.

Not only did Dr. Slater present his report on schedule and on time, something that does not often occur when dealing with a complex subject, but also the material provides us with the opportunity for thoughtful discussion. The task force has set out about 100 recommendations in its 520-page, two-volume report. The public and industry will have the opportunity to provide us with comments until July 31, 1986. In the meantime, my staff and I will carefully review the recommendations, and I hope the members will review the material and find it informative.

Mr. Runciman: Members will appreciate that even a Conservative cannot digest a 200-page document in half an hour. I am certain there will be further opportunities to debate the Slater task force report. I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to officials in the Ministry of Financial Institutions for allowing Lorrie Goldstein and the Toronto Sun a sneak preview of the Slater report. I would prefer that these reports were released here in the Legislature, but I will take advantage of the minister's leaky operation to make a few comments.

Many months have passed since my colleagues and members of the third party started questioning the minister on insurance. Whatever its merits—and I compliment Dr. Slater, there are quite a few—this report is too late for the swimming school in Markham, the architect in Willowdale, the tour operator in Brockville, the riding stables in Port Carling and municipalities

such as Thorold and Ancaster, to name but a few.

As I stated earlier, there are many merits to this report, and I hope the minister will not wait much longer before adopting many of the recommendations. However, it ignores many pressing problems. There is much to be said for a privately run, no-fault insurance plan. It is significantly better than a government-run plan. Any system must have checks and balances. If it were up to Dr. Slater, individuals would lose the right to sue for personal injury from automobile accidents, no matter how serious. As well, damages for pain and suffering could be obtained only by purchasing additional coverage. In the longer term, there would be no access to the courts for any accidental injuries.

The task force is recommending a no-fault scheme for everyone. The insurance companies will get a predetermined schedule of payments, probably on the low side, and no obligation to pay for pain and suffering. What a field day for Ontario's insurance companies.

Where is the assurance that premiums will go down? We are asking the individual to give up his right to sue and to have his personal damages individually assessed. We are giving insurance companies the stable environment they require to price their product effectively, yet we are getting nothing for the consumer in return. There is no assurance that premiums will decrease or level off, no assurance that additional coverage will be highly affordable and no assurance that the amount of no-fault payment will be adequate or that the areas of coverage will be sufficient.

There are more errors of omission. There is precious little about the problems Ontario has had in the reinsurance market and nothing about penalties for frivolous claims or about a simultaneous prevention and safety campaign. We also find nothing about establishing a consumer advocate in the office of the superintendent of insurance.

Many months ago, following the establishment of the Slater task force, this party expressed concern that there were only two representatives from the insurance industry on the task force and that there was no one from consumer groups or small business. From a cursory examination of the report, we suspect our concerns were well founded.

In summary, we hope the minister does not heed socialist calls for government-run insurance. He still has much work ahead of him in coming up with a comprehensive proposal for dealing with the insurance crisis. Members of

this party will be making many constructive suggestions, and we trust he will take note.

Mr. Swart: I wish to reply to the statement of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on the Slater task force. The Slater report, if implemented, will make some improvements to the present system, but overall it is a pathetic answer to a horrendous problem.

Apart from that, the minister's statement on tabling the report is void of any grasp of the present crisis. He states, "The public and industry will have the opportunity to provide us with comments until July 31, 1986," which is three months from now. That leaves any remedial action until at least the fall, which is six months from now.

There is no mention by the minister of any interim action to deal with the crisis of volunteer organizations cutting back on services and of events being cancelled. There is no mention by him of requiring insurance companies to justify the present rates, which continue to be applied, and further massive rate increases.

Our insurance task force went out in the real world, which the Slater task force never did. It identified seven major problems in the auto insurance system, all very major ones. The Slater report, if adopted by the government in total, and that is doubtful, will resolve only two of these problems: more adequate no-fault insurance and the elimination of penalties for age, sex and marital status. Apart from not solving the other problems, if the report is adopted, it will further escalate insurance rates. The private companies will pass on to the motorists the costs of increased no-fault insurance as well as their losses from the excessive revenue now received from good young drivers.

This would not have been necessary if they had gone to the model of the public plans in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia. They already have the two benefits of no-fault insurance and age and sex parity, with rates far lower than those in force here. The savings that could have been realized by the public auto insurance system, as documented by every independent study made, including Ontario's own 1978 select committee on company law report, would have absorbed these additional costs and left substantial funds for reducing premiums generally.

It is regrettable and unforgivable that Slater simply skirted and avoided the much lower costs of the public systems. The recommendations on liability insurance lack the same imagination and answers to the real problems. The impact on

society of this current liability situation is enormous. Dr. Slater said, "Insurance penetrates everything in this life." The penetration at present is one of bloodletting. The long-range proposals may improve the system, but nothing is going to change shortly or substantially. The public plans that operate in competition with private plans in the west have shown that rates are kept reasonable by the competition. Dr. Slater should have recommended that here.

Let there be no doubt that Ontario's current crisis in insurance is the direct responsibility of the insurance industry and of the government's hands-off policy. No one else is to blame. One commentator said that Slater was giving the private insurance industry one more chance. They were given that chance by the select committee report in 1978. Now it is time motorists and other insurers were given a chance in this province. Instead, what this report does, which will undoubtedly be implemented by the government, is to make the insurance market safe for the private insurance companies but not safe for the people of this province.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Hon. Mr. Scott: Later today I will introduce a bill to amend the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act. The legislation demonstrates in concrete form this government's commitment to providing compensation for the innocent victims of crime. It contains significant amendments that will have a major beneficial financial impact for these victims.

To reflect more accurately the real cost of injuries, the bill will significantly increase the maximum amounts that can be awarded to a victim of crime. The maximum awards for one victim will be increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for a lump sum award and from \$500 to \$1,000 per month for periodic payments. The maximum awards for all victims in respect of any one occurrence will be increased from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for a lump sum payment and from \$175,000 to \$250,000 for periodic payments. No changes have been made in this act by the party opposite since 1971.

The bill will also harmonize the compensation for victims of crime program with the family benefits/general welfare assistance program to minimize the disadvantage experienced by victims of crime who are general assistance recipients. Each program now deducts the amount received from the other program when determining the amount of an award or benefit.

The present net result is that general assistance recipients who are victims of crime may effectively receive no compensation for being the victim of a crime. This anomaly is rectified by the legislation, which will require that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board no longer deduct welfare benefits when assessing compensation.

In preparing this legislation, we considered at great length the issue of whether government should make provision for compensating the victims of crime for grief and sorrow, independent of the existing entitlement to compensation for pain and suffering. This was a particularly difficult question for me.

The government fully recognizes that grief and sorrow are the inevitable result of any crime. However, given the limitations of a publicly funded compensation scheme, it has decided it would not be prudent to provide compensation beyond the established boundaries of pain and suffering. Even the common law and the courts have not recognized such a claim. In a program the purpose of which is to assist the victim with pecuniary losses, it would be a marked departure to introduce compensation for a highly variable factor such as grief and sorrow. Frankly, I regretfully doubt whether money can compensate for this kind of emotional pain.

The bill will also give the board more flexibility and the ability to recover its award from the criminal who caused the injury or death. In addition to its present right to maintain an action for damages against the criminal in the name of the victim, the bill gives the board the right to bring its own action in the name of the crown. This amendment reinforces the important principle that criminals have responsibilities to their victims. The fact that the government has established a program to compensate victims of crime does not alter the principle.

The legislation will require recipients of compensation to provide whatever information and co-operation they can to assist the board in maintaining an action against the offender. The bill also will give the board more flexibility to deal fairly with cases where the applicant has not co-operated with the police. In this circumstance, the board will have discretion to reduce the amount of compensation to be awarded. Currently, under the present statute, the board only has authority to refuse to make an order for compensation in such a case.

This legislation will also allow the board to hold an in camera hearing where the applicant has been the victim of child abuse and where a

public hearing would be prejudicial to the final disposition of the trial of the person who caused the injury or death.

In addition, the legislation will provide that, under certain circumstances, the board can award interim payments for funeral expenses. Under the present wording, the act authorizes interim payments only in respect of maintenance and medical expenses.

The legislation we are proposing will put Ontario in the forefront of North American jurisdictions which seek to compensate their citizens for the costs of violent crime. Along with other initiatives we are taking to deal with victims of crime, the victims of child and spousal abuse in particular, these measures will mark a new beginning in our government's quest for compassionate and equitable treatment of people who are the victims of criminal conduct.

The chairman of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Mrs. Margaret Scrivener, a distinguished former member of this Legislature from my own riding of St. David, is present in the members' gallery. I ask her to rise. I know she will be as delighted as I am in the introduction of this progressive legislation.

Mr. O'Connor: We applaud the initiative of the Attorney General in bringing in substantive amendments to the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act. Victims of crime must be adequately compensated, and today's announcement is a good start, but we must not turn a blind eye to the other, apparently forgotten victims, the family members of the crime victims. To ignore the terrible anguish of the spouse, children, parents and siblings is to say that crime affects only the individual on whom it was perpetrated.

We acknowledge by way of the Family Law Act that family members should be compensated for damages and other circumstances, having set this out in five separate categories. To ignore such a precedent in amending this act is to demean the importance of the family unit. To encourage the isolation of family members by saying, "You are not involved and this case does not concern you," is to add a second assault or a second injury. It is a flaw in this bill that is fatal.

Ms. Gigantes: On behalf of New Democrats, I welcome the statement by the Attorney General that there will be amendments to the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act. It is high time the act was changed. Public opinion has called for a change in the attention we give to victims of crime, and the announcement that we will provide greater compensation is welcome. I hope the minister will see that previous compensation,

which was not adequate, is reviewed immediately the amendments are put into effect.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Before I call for oral questions, I wish to inform the members that in the east end of the Speaker's gallery we have a distinguished guest from a province to the east of us, the Honourable Richard French, Minister of Communications, from the Quebec National Assembly. Welcome, Mr. French.

2:34 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. How is it that the Urban Transportation Development Corp., in which the taxpayers of this province have invested more than \$160 million, which projects a profit of \$23 million over the next three years and which is expecting more than \$4 billion worth of sales as a result of Expo 86, now has had its sale to the private sector so mismanaged by the minister and by Mr. Kruger, special adviser to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), that, in the words of an anonymous high-level government official, "Lavalin is now offering to take it off your hands for a washout"—no money for a \$160-million corporation?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am pleased to see that even the Leader of the Opposition has reduced his anticipated profit from the Urban Transportation Development Corp. from some \$40 million in his March 25 release to \$24 million. I cannot give much more credence to the balance of his question than to his previous statements.

Mr. Grossman: I might say to the minister, whose arrogance is showing through loud and clear—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: The taxpayers of Ontario want to know how it is that the minister, Mr. Kruger and the Premier have so mismanaged the sale of this corporation that they are about to get zero dollars as they dump it off out of government hands.

Let me quote from John Kruger. In the *Globe and Mail* on March 8, 1986, he reported that Bombardier "tried to make an exclusive deal for the company in early December for \$54 million, even before it had seen UTDC's books.

"The new Liberal government," Mr. Kruger went on to report, "did not want to risk the political fallout of a secret deal with Bombardier.... In the process it angered Bombardier, which withdrew from the bidding."

The government had a \$54-million offer in its hands, by Mr. Kruger's admission. Now, as a result of the government's mismanagement, the taxpayers are going to get no dollars for a \$160-million investment. How does the minister explain that?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The Leader of the Opposition knows far more about arrogance than anyone on this side of the House. As the minister responsible for UTDC, I would be irresponsible if I responded to a question that refers to some unknown source in the newspaper.

Mr. Gillies: The Premier's arrogance is catching; that is obvious. Absolutely appalling.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: Fifty-four million dollars and he does not think it merits an answer?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Maybe the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) would control himself.

Mr. Gillies: It is difficult.

Mr. Grossman: The minister cannot hide from the public for ever on this issue. He is going to have to answer these questions. I invite him to answer them in this assembly, where it is his responsibility to do so.

The minister alleged, through Mr. Kruger, that he was getting a \$36.7-million guaranteed bid, not subject to withdrawal by Lavalin, for this company. Without signing a final agreement, he then commissioned Wood Gundy to do this study in an attempt to justify politically the price he had got. Wood Gundy then reported it might be worth between \$24 million and \$30 million.

Is the minister prepared to acknowledge this afternoon that, to justify his political sale, he has embarrassed Lavalin, which is now saying to the government: "Your own evaluation says we paid too much. Now we are not going to pay you anything."

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I suggest that the evaluation of UTDC and the controversy surrounding it best reflect the manner in which the previous government established a corporation and in the ensuing manner in which it did the bookkeeping.

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the minister responsible for francophone affairs. Last Thursday he introduced a bill respecting French-

language services. On that day, he announced that there were statutory guarantees in that bill. We asked him to point out the statutory guarantees, to enunciate them in this House and to point out where they were in the bill. He could not answer those questions.

It has now been five days since he introduced that legislation. Can he now, today, point out what those statutory guarantees are and where they are found in the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I refer the member to section 5 of the bill. I also point out that the commission that will be in place for the next three years will determine these services and make its recommendations known to cabinet and to this House.

Mr. Pope: On advice from the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the minister is aware that a decision of that commission and a decision of cabinet by no stretch of the imagination constitute statutory guarantees. I pointed out last Thursday to the minister the multitude of exemptions and regulations from sections 5 through sections 11 of his own legislation which virtually make the entire offering of French-language services not a statutory right, not a matter of statutory guarantee, but a matter of discretion of the cabinet. Does he disagree with that interpretation?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: My answer is the same as that given previously. The commission will evaluate the present services and make recommendations. After three years, these services will be guaranteed. This is much more than the services that have been given to the francophone population for the last 43 years.

Mr. Pope: With respect, that is no different whatsoever. There is no change. There is no statutory guarantee, even though on page 3 the minister promised the francophones and the people of this province there were. There are no statutory guarantees in the law, contrary to the minister's own statement in introducing the legislation.

My final supplementary is this. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said the minister would delay the introduction of this legislation until there were francophone professionals available to provide the service across this province. What has changed since February 13 to make it possible to introduce this bill now? Has he now got the professional services available and is that why he is introducing the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I told the former minister responsible for francophone affairs,

who did not do a thing while he had that responsibility, that the commission will evaluate these services and produce the needed guaranteed rights.

Mr. Rae: It is refreshing to hear someone say the bill is so bad it is just the way it was for 42 years.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It concerns car insurance. Now that we have the report, and given that in Saskatchewan premiums fell by seven per cent in 1985 and are going to be frozen for 1986, and in Manitoba they fell by two per cent in 1985, as they did in British Columbia, given those clear facts, coupled with the harsh reality that in Ontario rates have gone up by as much as 20 or 25 per cent depending on the driver, can the minister tell us why his government continues to refuse to embrace the logical, fair, democratic and eminently reasonable idea of public automobile insurance in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party makes statements that reflect his party's philosophical answer to insurance. We established a task force headed by Dr. Slater, who is a very well respected gentleman. He looked at all the information that the leader of the third party just outlined. In his determination, that was not the answer.

We have received his report; we are going to look at it and we will then make our determination. I can tell the member now that Dr. Slater comes out very emphatically that in his investigation of all the provinces that have their own car insurance business, there are more problems than there are solutions. That is his position and, at this moment, that is the position we are maintaining.

Mr. Rae: It would take a Liberal to be astounded by the fact that my question reflects the philosophy our party holds. I know a Liberal finds that difficult to understand, but yes, I confess, the question does reflect my point of view. It reflects a sincerely held point of view.

It also reflects the facts, and it is in connection with those facts that I address a second question to the minister. Can the minister tell us what assurance a driver, young or old, man or woman, rich or poor, has today that this government will take steps to ensure that rates in Ontario will and can come down and not go up? What steps is the minister prepared to announce today to protect the real interests of consumers in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: To respond to the first part of the member's question, the mere fact that it reflects that party's point of view does not mean it reflects that of the province and of the population of Ontario. Otherwise, they would be in a majority situation.

To answer the member's question, the marketplace is working. The situation in Ontario is relatively unusual. We have no indication that government insurance would help the problem. We will look at the total, overall insurance problem as a result of this report and we will act accordingly.

Mr. Rae: I am glad the minister is where he is; that is all I can say. I am just delighted.

I would like to ask the minister this question with respect to automobile insurance. Can he simply announce today what steps he is prepared to announce? Alberta has a privately controlled system, but it at least has a government board that regulates the price of insurance. Is the minister prepared, at least on an interim basis, to announce measures today that will ensure that motorists will no longer be ripped off to the extent to which they are being ripped off today in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The very simple answer to his question is that I am not prepared to do that today.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Energy with respect to the implications and impact of the accident at Chernobyl. He has now had some time to consider a response. Can he point to one change in public policy, one shift in point of view in his ministry, in Ontario Hydro or at any other level that reflects the implications of the accident that took place some 10 days ago?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The problem I have in replying to that kind of question is that no one knows what happened at Chernobyl. I think we would be less than responsible if we did not wait to see exactly what happened and how we should respond. I am not sure that what happened in Chernobyl with a graphite reactor is something that could happen here.

I tell the member, with the greatest commitment we have on this side, that when we know full well what took place at Chernobyl, we will be up in the Legislature reporting to the assembly.

Mr. Rae: The minister's view seems to reflect that dangerous complacency that simply says, "It cannot happen here."

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, it is not.

Mr. Rae: That is what I heard from the minister's statement. That is the answer I heard very clearly.

Mr. Mancini: That is not what he said.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: If the minister has a different answer, let him give it. Can he explain why no steps have been taken after his statement last week with respect to the need for a systematic study of safety and of the implications of a serious accident with respect to any of our plants? Can he explain why no steps have been taken in that direction, why no indication has been made of a need for an independent study and no steps been taken on the need to change and shift Ontario's policy? Is the minister saying no steps will be taken with respect to what has happened?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This government has taken many steps on where we will go. We are looking at alternatives such as hydraulic generation, conservation and cogeneration. We are not going to put all our eggs in one basket. We are looking at all those options.

The member is aware that a former New Democratic member, Donald MacDonald, was the chairman of the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs which looked into safety. I am sure he was satisfied at that time, and right up to the present, that our reactors are such that workers feel safe working in them.

Mr. Rae: Since the minister has referred to that report, let me remind him that recommendations from both the Porter commission and the select committee chaired by Mr. MacDonald, to which he referred, suggested a thorough examination of the likelihood and consequences of a serious nuclear accident. The minister must know that the specific recommendations with respect to the implications of a nuclear accident were systematically ignored by Hydro, by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., by the Atomic Energy Control Board and by the government of Ontario.

Since the minister apparently has endorsed that report today, is he prepared at least to take a minimal step and undertake such a study or review to assure Ontario citizens that a province that will be 70 per cent nuclear dependent by 1990, thanks to his government, its decisions and priorities, will at least have the safest system in the world?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: My first response is that this was not our decision. It may be our responsibility now, but it was not our decision

when it was entered into. I am very willing to accept what the member is saying. Part of the responsibility is that of the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes), who has very seriously taken that into account. Certainly, we are going to do the things the member is suggesting.

One thing that gives me some comfort is that the Hydro workers themselves say it all. Members of Local 1000 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees work in the plants and they are the strongest supporters of the safety of the nuclear plants in Ontario. I am not going to their defence to the point that I will not look into the alternatives, but I think the workers in those plants say it all.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Grossman: I have another question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I want to give him the unfettered opportunity to explain what happened to reduce a \$160-million investment to zero.

The minister, together with Mr. Kruger, stated with quite a fanfare several months ago that he was getting an alleged \$71 million for the sale of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. to Lavalin. Can the minister explain to the House and the taxpayers of this province what has transpired from that day to this to cause Lavalin to withdraw its offer and the government to lose an alleged \$71 million?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I do not agree the offer is causing less than what we indicated in March. The Leader of the Opposition is aware the offer contained an allowance for the bidders to take a detailed look at the accounting practices and books of the UTDC. One of the things of particular concern to us as well as the bidders is the ongoing liability of UTDC, of which the Leader of the Opposition is very much aware since he was the Treasurer when some of those liabilities were entered into.

Mr. Grossman: The minister announced the deal before he had signed a firm offer. He stood up and trumpeted \$71 million without having a commitment from Lavalin, as it turns out. He then commissioned a report that said to Lavalin, "John Kruger and the Premier have said to the world, 'We got \$71 million from Lavalin.'" He then got Wood Gundy to say to the world: "Lavalin, they took you. In Wood Gundy's view, the company is worth \$26 million to \$30 million." Is the minister prepared to admit that when this became public, Lavalin called up and said it was no longer prepared to be held out to the

public as paying \$71 million for something that his own report said was worth \$26 million?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: We did not announce a deal. We announced the award to a successful bidder to explore further the possibility of negotiating the privatization of the corporation. It is that simple.

TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. What specific safeguards is the minister implementing as a result of his ministry's findings released last Friday that the most toxic form of dioxin, 2,3,7,8-TCDD, has been found at the level of 210 parts per trillion in the primary settling lagoon at the Boise Cascade mill in Fort Frances?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member will recall some time ago it was revealed that dioxin had been found in the fish in the Rainy River. At that time, I indicated that the Ministry of the Environment and its counterpart in Minnesota would examine a number of potential sources of that dioxin, a significant amount having been found, at least enough to flag a problem. Subsequent to that, the ministry examined the effluent in Boise Cascade's material coming out of the plant. The effluent did not contain anything, but the sludge did contain dioxin.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, that is what I just said.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I know this is a serious matter and the member will consider that.

Mr. Foulds: The minister released the information on Friday afternoon in northwestern Ontario and not here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think that was a pretty well known fact.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister was actually starting to answer what I guess was a supplementary question. Is there a supplementary?

Mr. Wildman: He was starting to answer the first question.

Mr. Rae: He repeated the question and then he did not get on to his answer.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you could respond briefly.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will try to respond in a more brief manner.

As a result of testing in our lab, we did find dioxin in the sludge at Boise Cascade. We are looking at six or seven other plants, at the same time as those on the American side are, to

identify whether the problem is prevalent in all the plants or in one specific plant, because it has been found in other places. As a result, we are working with the companies to determine how they might change their processes to avoid the production of dioxin.

Mr. Foulds: Does the minister agree with the present Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), who said in 1983, "Sweet assurances from the ministry that all is well in the face of a growing dioxin threat are beginning to ring hollow"?

When will the minister be in a position to tell us that his ministry has accepted its responsibility (1) to guarantee that these discharges are not going into the Rainy River in any way, shape or form, (2) to determine what it is in the kraft pulping process that appears to produce dioxin as a byproduct and (3) to find out what is causing the contamination level of dioxin in the fish in the Rainy River?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member is absolutely correct. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment to determine that and the responsibility of no one else.

We are in a position to say that is why we did the testing of the fish, the testing of the effluent and the testing of the sludge. At this time, our officials are working with the companies to determine the source so the procedure that produces dioxin as a byproduct can be changed and we no longer have that byproduct making its way into the environment. It is a legitimate concern. We are moving very quickly, and at the earliest opportunity we hope to have the solution.

3 p.m.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. A senior member of the cabinet has recently stated that he favours enhanced trade with the United States. Will the minister draw some distinction between the meaning of "enhanced trade" and "freer trade" with respect to the United States?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I take it that enhanced trade means increased trade.

Mr. Brandt: I am glad to hear the government has an identifiable position and it is in favour of more trade. It is delightful to hear that. However, what is the government going to do about enhancing trade with the US if it is in opposition to some form of freer trade or to some of the discussions that are going on at present on the part of the federal government?

Will the minister please clarify for this House what his position is on enhanced trade, freer trade, free trade, trade liberalization or anything else to do with trade so that we will know?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I find it very hard to understand that a previous Minister of Industry and Trade does not understand the issue. We will work very hard for increased or enhanced trade to raise our trade figures with the US for ever, I hope, depending on what comes out of the free trade—

Mr. Brandt: So he is in favour of free trade.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Enhanced or increased trade.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Minister of Housing. Yesterday, the Minister of Housing said the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre) would address the question of severing rental row housing for a private sale. In turn, the Minister of Municipal Affairs said he would review all municipal consents to the severance of row housing.

Will the Minister of Housing tell us whether Bill 11 or the associated and somewhat confused ministerial statements will allow an appeal to cabinet of the recent Ontario Municipal Board approval of severances for 94 units of rental row housing in Overbrook and Carlington Park in the ridings of Ottawa Centre and Ottawa East?

Hon. Mr. Curling: If I understand the honourable member's question, she is asking whether that case will allow an appeal from the OMB to the cabinet. Is that what she is asking?

Ms. Gigantes: Can it be appealed?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I cannot answer the question. I will have to check whether it can be appealed and get back to her.

Ms. Gigantes: While the minister is checking, will he also inquire of whomever tells him whether under Bill 11 the tenants of the 90 rental units in the Bonaventure Apartments at 180 MacLaren in the riding of Ottawa Centre can follow steps which will lead to an appeal to cabinet to prevent their building from becoming converted unit by unit to an apartment hotel?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I will also check into that.

Mr. Shymko: My question is to the Premier. On February 12, he promised this government would not unilaterally interfere with municipalities on the issue of conversion. In reply to my question about protecting tenant ownership, he said: "The power is in the hands of Metro

Toronto.... Surely he is not asking me to impose my will unilaterally, one way or another, on this situation. No good yuppie would do that kind of thing."

How does a good yuppie Premier explain this blatant policy flip-flop, of which the acrobatics outmatch even such masters as Rosenberg and Player? Is this another example of the Liberal version of keeping its promise? What kind of political con game is he playing now that he has even his own Minister of Housing paralysed in total confusion?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With sympathy, I understand my friend's confusion. After all, he is a member of the Progressive Conservative caucus. That caucus has 16 different positions on every issue. What is his position on this matter? When is he going to stand up and tell us where he stands on it?

We told him very clearly where we stand. We brought in that law yesterday to address problems that we think are serious. It will last for two years and will ultimately allow an appeal to the cabinet. That is very clearly where we stand.

Mr. Shymko: I am surprised by this flippant answer. Will the Premier not admit he has misled this member, this House and his own Liberal Party association in High Park-Swansea, which officially supports conversion? Is he playing another con game with his Liberal cronies? What is his game?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member take his seat? Will he withdraw the words he used regarding misleading?

Mr. Shymko: Unlike the Premier, I do not mislead the people of Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask the member once more, will he withdraw those words?

Mr. Shymko: The Premier should withdraw his previous statement of February 12.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is that a no? It is with regret that I must name the honourable member and ask him to withdraw for the rest of the day.

Mr. Shymko left the chamber.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I have two very quick points of order. I will not prolong your decision, but I ask you to check Hansard. My colleague's comment was a question, not an accusation. I would like you to check that with Hansard when you get the chance.

Second, can we have the answer to the question?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I feel I heard it correctly. I made a decision. The member has left the chamber; therefore, there is no need for a response. If another member wishes to ask the same question in a different way, that is fine.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: History has been made again. Tom Stelling has made it on to television throwing somebody out of the House; well done. The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) is only sorry it was not he who could be here today.

DAY CARE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is of the Minister of Community and Social Services. On April 4, 1985, our would-be Premier said, "Provision of child care services is an issue central to the economic health of Ontario and to equitable employment opportunities for women. Despite the rhetoric and promises, the Conservative government continues to treat child care as a welfare issue." A year later, why does the minister continue to do so?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: This government has clearly gone on record as saying it plans to move welfare from a welfare issue to a public service matter. We are now in the process of developing the procedure for making that happen.

The honourable member is clearly aware that there are three central issues here: the accessibility, the affordability and the wages of the workers. To the extent that one puts all three together in a single, integrated, comprehensive package, one begins to deal with the issue. To try to deal with any one of them in isolation simply will not work.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I never said the minister had to separate them.

Recently, the minister was quoted in the Toronto Star as saying, "For a long time it"—meaning day care—"was not seen by government or the public as a necessary service." I presume from what he is saying that he does see it as a necessary service. If it is, when is he going to implement this necessary service? When are we going to see his white paper on the integration of the three matters to which he just spoke?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: This party indicated, as an election campaign promise, that 10,000 new spaces would be made available over a two-year period. We have implemented that promise. That is step number one. Step number two has been identified: simply putting new spaces on the market does not resolve the problems I have just

identified. That is why a comprehensive, integrated package is now being put together. As soon as it is, it will be made available to the member and every other member of this House.

3:10 p.m.

ETHNIC PROGRAM

Mr. Davis: I have a question of the Minister of Education. The social community relations program begun in 1975 and applauded by the Ministry of Education, which assisted parents in becoming involved in their children's education, is being terminated by the Toronto Board of Education. The parents who are upset, especially those of Portuguese background, have asked the minister to undertake a pilot project in order that the strategies and models may be developed so this program can be used in other jurisdictions. Will the minister implement this type of program?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I must say that I am wondering, as are my friends the member for York South (Mr. Rae) and the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), whether I am hearing the member for Scarborough Centre correctly. I know that in recent days the member for Scarborough Centre has announced publicly that it is therapeutic to change one's mind, but this surely is carrying that to a ridiculous extreme.

I want to say to my distinguished friend from Scarborough—

Mr. Baetz: The minister is too young to be so arrogant.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Arrogant? Speaking about changing one's mind, I see we have aroused the interest of the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz), who has been publicly undressing on a public policy matter for the past six months. I think we are about to see that emperor without any clothes at all in a few days.

Mr. Davis: I have a supplementary, but first, I would hope the minister would attempt to answer the question. Second, I guess my colleagues from the left are a little bit upset because they could not understand the situation; they had not raised it in the House.

Is the minister, along with his colleagues, telling the people of Ontario that he does not give a damn about the ethnic people of this community when he refuses to instigate these pilot projects so parents in this province can learn to access the educational system?

Mr. Gillies: The minister is looking arrogant again.

Hon. Mr. Conway: As my friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) and I know, that is surely not the vernacular in which the honourable reverend gentleman from Scarborough was schooled. In front of all these young people, I am sure the Education spokesman for the official opposition would want to review that language.

As the honourable member knows, these are matters that are properly before the Toronto Board of Education. The Ministry of Education has its responsibilities, and I intend to take those very seriously. However, the particular matter to which the member makes reference is one that falls within the purview of the local board; it has taken a decision. I am sure the member, and his friends in the official opposition, including the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), might want to take this up with their friends on the Toronto school board. However, it is quite properly a matter of the board's jurisdiction.

PAPER MILL

Mr. Pouliot: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. What concrete steps is his ministry willing to take to ensure that the Kimberly-Clark paper mill in the township of Terrace Bay will not close?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sure that question was answered by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye). As the question relates to me, we assured the mill that the Ministry of Natural Resources would provide the materials necessary to keep the mill going. I am sure the honourable member will admit that is the only responsibility I have as it relates to that mill operation. We have given that guarantee.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister guarantee that should Kimberly-Clark close the mill, the timber rights will be withdrawn from Kimberly-Clark and that any successor company must guarantee to keep the mill open to get those timber rights?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would have to look into the legal ramifications.

Mr. Wildman: The minister is the one who makes the decisions.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Just a minute. Let us talk about the contracts being binding or not.

Mr. Foulds: The company can break its contract with the people of Terrace Bay; it can shut down the community, and yet the minister is afraid to take away its licence.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am not. If it is within my prerogative to guarantee those jobs, I will give the House that undertaking.

Mr. Pouliot: Please, do not ask your staff.

Mr. Wildman: The minister is the one who makes the decision.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. McCague: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The Prince Edward Island potato growers have received support, first from their government and subsequently from the federal government. Why did the minister turn down the Ontario potato growers when they asked for a stabilization payment?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I do not think the information received by the honourable member is completely factual. I did not turn them down. I suggested they contact the federal Minister of Agriculture because, as the member well knows, the stabilization program is a federal program. It is the Agricultural Stabilization Act program.

I wrote a letter to my counterpart in Ottawa and told him that if he were prepared to give them an advance payment or even to give them a subsidy similar to the one he gave to PEI producers, I would seriously consider sharing that support payment to the potato producers in this province.

Mr. McCague: I am pleased to have the minister's answer. Would he like my help in persuading the federal government to come first so that he might come second?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Sure. We will ask for all the support we can get to make sure our agricultural industry remains as viable as it possibly can. If the member has a pipeline to his federal counterparts, I suggest he jump on the line and tell Mr. Wise to get moving and to do something about the agricultural industry, not only in this province but also elsewhere in this country, because the federal government is doing nothing.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I wonder whether the Minister of Health is aware of a letter that went to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) today from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, saying, "The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario is distressed with your government's postponements, mixed messages and foot dragging over the passage of Bill 94 to end the practice of extra billing."

Is the minister not aware that partners in the health care system, such as nurses, nurses' assistants and other professionals, are frustrated

with the double standard his government is taking with regard to the doctors as opposed to the needs they have within the health care system?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not aware of that letter. It was not delivered to my office before I left; it may be on its way.

I have spoken directly with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario on several occasions; in fact, I addressed a meeting it had last week, and that sort of expression was not conveyed to me at that time. I can tell the honourable member and the people of the province that we are not dragging our feet. We are proceeding, and we will continue to proceed, to a conclusion on this issue.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I asked the minister yesterday, and I will ask him again today: In view of the fact that on Friday his negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association broke off again and the OMA was not even willing to discuss with him a moratorium on extra billing while negotiations continue, can the minister give an indication to the registered nurses and to this Legislature where there is room for a negotiated settlement with the OMA? Why is he not proceeding with this bill now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman knows the bill is currently in committee; we are dealing with Bills 54 and 55, and there is then, in addition, Bill 30. We are dealing with the legislation that is in the committee, and we will continue to conduct the business of the committee as it is ordered. We are not at a stage where discussions have broken off. That is his interpretation. We expect to have other meetings.

The member would want to know that we are taking every step to ensure that we find out whether there is a middle road, and we are still anticipating some new material to be forwarded to us at an appropriate meeting.

FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE

Mr. Guindon: J'ai une question pour le ministre de l'Éducation.

In the speech from the throne, the government indicated it would be addressing the needs of the functionally illiterate. Does the minister have a specific program in place to address the needs of francophones who are functionally illiterate?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The speech from the throne does address this government's concern about the illiteracy rate in the province. My colleagues the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) and the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) and I are

reviewing a variety of initiatives and options at present. I invite the honourable member to stand by. We will have something to say more specifically for the anglophone and francophone communities, as well as many others, in the not-too-distant future.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Guindon: I am willing to stand by, but I do not know for how long. Will the minister be consulting with groups such as l'Association des enseignants franco-ontariens and l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Cornwall knows only too well from our co-operative and consultative effort on École secondaire la Citadelle that I am a consultative fellow and I will consult with the organizations to which he makes reference and a host of others. This government is quite concerned about—

Mr. Villeneuve: Are you listening?

Hon. Mr. Conway: We have aroused the squire from Moose Creek. I am prepared to go to Moose Creek and to have the representations of my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve).

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will talk about Moose Creek some other time.

FLOODING

Mr. Hayes: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Now that the minister has set up his lame-duck committee to study the flooding problems along the Great Lakes, is he prepared to include in his committee some knowledgeable individuals on this subject from the riparian groups to offset his collection of party hacks?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am tempted not to respond to that, but I shall. I am sorry the honourable member feels that way about the whole involvement, because I think we are doing something that augurs well for the people along the lakefront. The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan), who is the chairman of that committee, and representatives from cities along the lakeshore are not hacks in my book. They are people who are genuinely concerned about what is happening and they will do a good job for us. The member is privileged to go there and make his feelings known. The only time he has done too much is to get up in the Legislature and say what is wrong. We are looking to the member to help us go in the right direction and to tell us what is correct.

The Americans are doing a very major study with the Corps of Engineers, which I am sure will

be helpful to the whole process of what is happening on the Great Lakes. Our people are doing an excellent job. I am very proud of that committee and I hope the member will co-operate with it.

Mr. Hayes: I think I have been very co-operative. I have actually brought some knowledgeable people to speak to the minister, but he has ignored what they have been telling him to do.

It is no different than the previous party. We cannot afford to wait while millions of dollars worth of property damage occurs. Will the minister tell us when the committee will actually begin its public meetings so that it can get on with its task force very quickly?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member really knows how to hurt a guy. Being compared to the previous government is about all I can take. The committee has had its inaugural meeting. A list of where the meetings will take place will be provided to the member. Another important player the member should be addressing is the federal government. We have had a great deal of correspondence with the Honourable Tom McMillan relating to any controls or any investigative help they would give us at the federal level, and it is ongoing.

The member will have to look for a major commitment from the federal government. When one looks at a province that has 3,000 miles of shoreline, it will take considerable effort and money. Of necessity, it will need the co-operation of the federal government and the government of the United States. It is really an international problem.

WINTARIO CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Mr. Rowe: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I hope his microphone will work, so we do not have to listen to a three-page report tomorrow.

Can the minister explain why the application forms for the Wintario capital funding program he announced in January were made available only last week?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The Wintario capital grants program which was announced is the first program we have had in three years. A lot of thought has gone into this program, and I am delighted that it is now out and in place.

Mr. Rowe: The reality of this great program that the minister is telling us he has announced is that he has done nothing for four months but announce the program. He is so busy getting his

glossy picture on the face of magazines trying to look good that he will not run his ministry.

With only 18 working days left from today, does he expect applicants to fill out some 32 questions on an application form and return it to him by May 31? In view of his mishandling of this, will he agree to extend the May 31 deadline for the applicants who need some of that money?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: No one will be penalized because of the date. The people in the field are client groups. Municipalities are just delighted with this program. The applications are starting to come in, and it is going to be a very successful program.

CANRON PLANT

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Is the minister aware of the decision of the Abex Corp. of Baltimore, Maryland, to cancel the rights of the Canron plant at St. Thomas, represented by Local 4815 of the United Steelworkers of America, to manufacture brake shoes for Canadian National and Canadian Pacific? What is he doing about it?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I am not aware of it, but if the member would forward any information he has, I will do what I can to help.

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the minister aware and can he verify that this is the only plant in Canada that is manufacturing brake shoes that are used by CN and CP? The decision to cancel the right to manufacture these brake shoes can mean the closing of the plant and the loss of better than 50 jobs as well as the necessity for us to source in the United States. What is he doing to protect basic industries like this to see that it does not happen?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, if the member would be kind enough to forward any information he has, I would be very pleased to speak with him on it and to help in any way I can.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Gregory: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In a recent article the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) stated that the government's 8.3-cents-a-litre tax on gasoline is necessary if people want things such as good roads.

How can the Minister of Transportation and Communications justify his government's higher gas taxes when the following highways have been either cancelled or delayed by this government: the Ottawa Queensway; the Highway 403

extension; Highway 654, Parry Sound; Highway 404; Highway 407; and Highway 89?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I suggest that the member's information is incorrect. In fact, we speeded up the Ottawa Queensway. We did not delay Highway 407. We maintained and are increasing the scheduling on Highway 404. I do not know where the information comes from, but it is erroneous.

Mr. Gregory: I can assure the minister that the information I have is factual. He has spent too long in Vancouver; he has fallen behind.

In view of the fact that in the last budget there was a reduction of \$34 million in the budget of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, while the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) experienced increased revenues from fuel taxes, registration and licence fees of \$23 million; and in view of the fact that MTC initiatives are not even mentioned in the throne speech, can the minister tell this House how he intends to convince the Treasurer to allocate the increased revenue from gasoline taxes to MTC for road construction to deliver on the commitment of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I appreciate that the member is thanking us for the trip he enjoyed to Expo recently. The member, as an experienced member of this House, is surely aware that all revenues go into the consolidated revenue fund.

DEBT REVIEW BOARDS

Mr. Ramsay: Why has the Minister of Agriculture and Food, since becoming minister, reversed his position on third-party debt review for many of the farmers in Ontario who are in financial trouble and, instead of supporting the farmers, come down firmly on the side of the banks of this province?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I have to disagree with the member. I have not reversed my decision on third-party debt review. As a matter of fact, the amendment to the Bankruptcy Act, which Mr. Wise hopes to get through the House before the end of June, will set up debt review boards, but review boards that will not have the authority to write down debt.

I support debt review boards and perhaps we can give farmers breathing space. In fact, he adopted his program from the farmers in transition program I introduced in this province. He is simply going to have debt review boards meet with farmers to see whether they can

restructure their farm businesses to put them in a position where they can continue to farm and can continue to rely on banks for operating credit. It is a different matter if one is talking about review boards with the authority to impose arbitrary settlements. The member knows as well as I do the problems one would run into with that kind of situation.

Mr. Ramsay: It appears the minister has forgotten some of the statements he made at a meeting in Earlton before he was the minister. He came down firmly on judicial third-party debt review. We now have the silent majority of farming in this province, represented by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, firmly in support of this principle. I ask the minister again, why is he not backing up the farmers of this province?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am very much in favour of debt review boards. I have serious reservations about boards that are given the authority to say to a bank or any other lending institution or any private individual who happens to be holding a mortgage, "You are going to write down debt whether you like it or not." We saw what happened in the west with the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act. Some people out there are still very bitter about the fact they had to write down debt or even write the whole thing off. We have to be careful about it because more than financial institutions are backing farmers with mortgages and other loan programs. If one comes in with that kind of program, one is going to signal to those farmers that governments can come along at any time and change the rules and regulations that were made between the farmer and the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the minister will complete his answer by letter.

SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the minister irresponsible for senior citizens. Yesterday in this Legislature, the Minister without Portfolio for senior citizens' affairs indicated that seven months ago he tabled his report with cabinet and it still has not seen the light of day. One change has been made for senior citizens while he has been minister, and I ask him whether he consulted with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) on the change. It is the one that increases the fee for the average week of camping for a senior citizen from \$17.50 a week last year to \$35 a week this year.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: That is really a two-part question. I point out to the member that the first part of the work I did in reviewing

services for seniors addressed itself to Health and to Community and Social Services. In so far as other areas or ministries affect seniors, we are beginning that phase of the work now with Transportation and Communications, Housing and other related areas. Certainly, I have consulted with the Minister of Natural Resources and he will be more than delighted to elaborate on the answer.

Mr. Harris: I am a little disappointed that the minister consulted and agrees with the minister that the fee should be doubled for the average week of camping. There is another thing in this area. I ask him again whether he consults with anybody over there, including the Minister of Natural Resources. I have a pamphlet entitled *A Guide for Senior Citizens: Services and Programs in Ontario*; Ron Van Horne, Minister; David Peterson, Premier.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question is—

Mr. Harris: It says that provincial parks offer free camping to Ontario senior citizens and that one can get the pamphlet *Senior Citizens: Use of Provincial Parks*. At the same time that comes out, a Ministry of Natural Resources' pamphlet comes out saying there is no free camping.

Mr. Speaker: The minister.

Mr. Harris: In fact, the fees are doubled and the pamphlet is not available.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: I am sure the Minister of Natural Resources will want to elaborate, but the time is not available now. Let me simply say that the senior citizens' guide to which the member referred was printed when that was the policy. It was printed before the statement came out from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I did not want to interrupt the question period, but I wanted to comment on the point of order raised by the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) with respect to your ruling on the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko).

I feel that since this is a historic first, the first expulsion for the benefit of the television cameras, it should not pass unnoticed. I think your ruling was correct, because some of us knew as early as lunch-time today the honourable member planned to get himself thrown out.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I cannot see how that is a point of order. It is a point of view.

Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The member for Bellwoods definitely impugned the motives of the member for High Park-Swansea.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: I simply repeat that at lunch-time today I heard the member planned to have himself evicted.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If we had a little order, one could hear what is going on.

PETITIONS

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to table in the House today a petition, which has been signed by more than 3,000 residents of the metropolitan Hamilton area and forwarded to me by Dr. Alvin Lee, president of McMaster University. The preamble is lengthy, so I will only give a précis. The petition sets out that if Ontario and Canada are to compete economically and technologically with the rest of the world and to advance culturally, we must support the health of our university system. It says, "We urge the fullest possible assistance from the government of Ontario."

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Harris: I have a petition signed by 93 people with reference to the gouging Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). It states:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

It is a timely comment.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member for York East adjourned the debate. Has the honourable member finished her comments?

Ms. Hart: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any questions of the member? If not, the next speaker will be the member for Fort William.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Hennessy: I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the throne speech. I will limit myself to a few brief remarks on the subject I know best, northern Ontario.

I must admit I am disappointed with the contents of the throne speech. The Liberals have repeatedly assured the residents of northern Ontario that their concerns will be of the utmost importance. Judging by the throne speech, northern concerns have been given a much lower position on the Liberals' list of priorities. The few promises contained in the speech are all air and no substance.

Northerners know when something sounds too good to be true. They are industrious and down-to-earth people, and they cannot be fooled by flimsy promises. It is time the government realizes that northern Ontario demands and deserves more attention. It may be more politically fruitful for the Liberals to concentrate their efforts where they have traditionally received votes, but the north will not stand for such policies.

I was disappointed that the throne speech did not address the plight of single-industry towns. These towns are in dire need of assistance to help decrease their dependency on just one source of economic development. It is imperative that no other town meet the tragic fate of Creighton. Inco has sounded the death knell for this once-thriving community. Located 15 kilometres northwest of Sudbury, Creighton is scheduled for demolition by June 1988, leaving its 450 residents homeless and bitter.

Could this situation have been avoided? I think so. It is an important priority for the government to study this issue. I realize this cannot be solved overnight, but the government must continue to search for a solution. Task forces are not enough, especially when it is obvious the government takes no heed of recommendations that make sense.

What about unemployment in the north? In the Sudbury area, the unemployment rate was 11.6 per cent in March 1986; in the Thunder Bay area, it was slightly higher at 12.7 per cent. The provincial average is 6.8 per cent. This is disturbing. More and more of our young people are leaving the north because they cannot find steady jobs. What do the Liberals plan to do about this situation? For northerners, the situa-

tion equals frustration. Will the Liberals promise to alleviate this frustration?

Because of northern Ontario's dependence on single industries for its economic wellbeing, the economy is fragile and unstable. The failure to diversify the northern economy means a continued dependence on the mining and forestry sectors, but employment in these areas is far from promising. In the mining sector, jobs have decreased to 35,000 in 1984 from 50,000 in 1980, a 30 per cent decline. In the forestry sector, jobs were relatively stable at 15,000 from 1980 to 1983 before declining to 12,000 in 1984.

A recently released report from the Ontario Manpower Commission shows that the median growth for the province will produce only 100 more jobs in forestry and 6,300 in mining in the five-year period from 1984 to 1988, a low-growth scenario that will actually see 1,000 jobs lost in forestry and only 1,900 jobs produced in mining. This indicates that the two key sectors in northern Ontario are stagnating.

I thought the throne speech would include at least a passing mention of the problems facing our softwood lumber industry. Protectionist bills introduced in the United States by congressmen seriously hamper the industry, because many of the bills are aimed at restricting access of our lumber exports and at imposing countervailing duties on our exports.

Ontario is the second-largest exporter of forestry products to the United States in Canada. In 1985, the value of softwood lumber alone exported from Ontario to the US exceeded \$800 million. There are thousands of people employed in Ontario sawmills, many of which are located in the north.

The US is also putting a great deal of pressure on the federal government to make concessions on the lumber issue for the upcoming free trade talks. We know the concessions being sought will have a direct impact on Ontario's lumber industry. Why has the Liberal government played ostrich and stuck its head in the sand regarding this issue? The futures of many of these communities which depend on the lumber industry are in jeopardy.

Our resource industries are important, but perhaps the most important commodity is our youth. The north cannot afford to have our youth flock to the south looking for employment. There must be concentration on the community retaining employment to keep northern Ontario vital and alive.

Although the speech from the throne briefly mentioned the establishment of educational

facilities in northern Ontario, it did not satisfactorily explain the administration or financing of these schools. I hope this new high school of science and technology succeeds. However, where will the graduates of this high school work? As I mentioned before, career opportunities in mining and forestry are best described as bleak. This school can succeed only if the north can benefit from the Liberal promises on research and development improvements.

It is always refreshing when the Liberal government agrees that one of our original programs is worth while and should be continued. The Progressive Conservative government had implemented the idea of long-distance education programs, using new technology to reach those in remote communities. The Liberals have decided to expand that program, which I understand has enriched the lives of thousands of northern Ontario residents.

I was disappointed that the Liberals did not mention what they planned to do regarding separate school funding in the north. The Liberals did not address the quandary in which many northern Ontario towns find themselves. How should a community with only one school implement the provisions found within the separate school funding issue? This is an important and controversial issue in the north, and I am gravely disappointed that the speech from the throne made no mention of it.

I was pleased to see that tourism in the north would be given a high priority. I am a little sceptical, however, as to whether the Liberal initiatives will ever be implemented. The provisions that were set out in the speech from the throne sound suspiciously like promises made by the Liberals last year and never implemented. I only hope these new promises will not sit on the shelf as rainy-day promises.

Tourism is important in the north. It is important that the north has a chance to diversify its economic base, and tourism is the natural solution. However, taxes will seriously hinder any attempts at tourism development, especially when gasoline prices are higher in the north than they are in the south. Food and accommodation are also costlier. Perhaps the Liberals will study the prospect of alleviating the tax plight and ending fancy promises and fancy programs.

It is time the Liberals realized that northern Ontario is an integral part of this province. To grow and to become economically strong, northern Ontario needs special attention to realize its potential. The Liberal government has a tendency to ignore the north. This attitude must

change. I can only hope the budget will be more attentive to the north than the speech from the throne has been.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Ramsay: It is a pleasure to rise in my place today to comment on this document, which we had read to us on April 22, of 1986. Coming from northern Ontario, what I heard in this document came as a bit of a shock. I do not relate very well to the future that is being projected here in this speech from the throne. It does not relate to what is going on—if members will pardon the expression—in my neck of the woods. We are having great trouble even keeping pace with the old industrial technology and the old smokestack industries. We are even losing the few that we have. We do not seem to be moving into the glorious future that is projected here. We would like to be a part of that action, but we feel very much left out of it.

The idea of the speech is not bad in concept. Maybe we should look, as it says here, at a framework for long-term achievement. The problem of the north is that we are not achieving today. We are having a lot of trouble maintaining our own, let alone having any vision of the future.

The speech says we will continue to build on our traditional resource and manufacturing sectors. This is obviously one of the main areas of northern Ontario industry, but we cannot build at all. We are entering into a free-fall stage when it comes to our resources and any manufacturing we can derive from those resources.

We look at this as something in a foreign language when the economy of the future is being characterized by "an intense competition focused on services, knowledge, information and new technology in order to maintain and create jobs." We cannot keep pace with what we are doing now. How are we going to enter into this new space age in northern Ontario without some sort of vision and plan of what we need to do in the north?

As the speech says, we should be "innovating and seizing opportunities." Obviously, we should have been doing that in the past 42 years. We also could have been doing that this past year. We have opportunity after opportunity fall into our lap every time these layoffs are announced, and yet we do not do anything about them. We say, "Let us study it; let us send a committee up to Sault Ste. Marie," but there is no real, concrete action. We are going to have to come up with some alternatives if we are to

populate that vast northern section of our province.

It is ironic—and the results of elections, probably future as well as past, show this—that some of the things that I say as a New Democrat and that people in other parties say show real agreement across party lines with many people in the north.

The free market system does not work badly in southern Ontario, where there is a concentrated market, a vast population; a few people fall through the cracks, but on the whole, it does not work too badly. The free market system fails totally in northern Ontario, and we are seeing that now with job after job being lost day after day. I am going to go through some of those jobs a little later.

April has been a real horror month for people in northern Ontario and for the people who are breadwinners for their families. The government is even starting to say it should be steering clear of ventures that are best left to the private sector.

We New Democrats believe the public sector is very good at supplying many basic services for people, but we are not saying the public sector should be in every business and should be totally running the economy. We should be planning the economy, and we should be encouraging business to carry on with the business of business in this day and age.

When it comes to northern Ontario, I have to differ. The private sector is not doing its job in northern Ontario because basically the private sector does not care about northern Ontario. It does not care about southern Ontario either, but it is striving and doing well because it cares about profits. It can make profits in southern Ontario, and my hat is off to it. I may be unlike some members of my caucus; I do not know. I am not against profits. "Profits" is not a dirty word; we must have incentives built into the system. But in northern Ontario this system does not work. We are all falling through the cracks in northern Ontario.

The speech says: "The world economy is in an era of transition. Ontario enters this period with considerable strengths." Not those of us in northern Ontario. As I said before, our economy is in a free-fall situation. We are finding it devastating, and it is hampering our vision of where we are going, because we do not feel we have a future.

The speech goes on to say, "Our economy has emerged leaner and stronger from a decade in which the world economy experienced significant upheaval." We never recovered up north.

We never recovered in farming, we never recovered in forestry, and except for a few examples such as gold, we never recovered in mining either. We are still experiencing that upheaval in northern Ontario.

The speech goes on and this, for the speech, is the good part. It says: "Over the past 12 months, 179,000 jobs have been created in Ontario. The first three months of this year saw the creation of 73,000 new jobs." That is very well and good for southern Ontario, but those new jobs were not created in the north; they are all down here.

As members know, in April we had some serious announcements made in northern Ontario concerning employment, the latest being Algoma Steel, which announced it would be laying off 1,500 people in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. Now we hear the basic murmurings and rumblings from Kimberly-Clark that there is a good chance the company may be closing the mill in Terrace Bay, putting 2,000 people of out work: 1,000 in the mill and 1,000 in the woodland operations. Can members imagine if this sort of announcement were made in Brantford or Mississauga or Oshawa? Two thousand people are a lot of people. That is a lot of jobs anywhere in this province, let alone in northern Ontario, where we do not have any quantity of jobs compared to southern Ontario.

On May Day, 150 jobs were lost at the Great Lakes waferboard mill in Thunder Bay. That was a very well chosen, ironic sense of timing on the part of Great Lakes. Rio Algom announced it would have to reduce its work force in Elliot Lake by 200 jobs. Again, 200 jobs are a lot of jobs in Elliot Lake. The last of the 283 jobs at the Griffith Mine in Ear Falls was also lost, finally announced in April. That is a total of 4,133 jobs threatened or lost in the past four or five weeks alone.

I do not know whether the point is getting across to the government on what is happening in northern Ontario. What we in this party have been ranting about for the past few years, to use the expression of my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), is happening. There has been a slow haemorrhage over the past few years and now, all of a sudden, we are seeing the wounds open up and the real blood letting happen in northern Ontario. It has to be obvious to all.

I did an interesting thing when I saw what was happening in April alone. Obviously April is not a typical month, but it is something that is happening and it seems to be continuing. To be fair, it is not a typical month, but if we were to lose these jobs at the rate we have in the past four

to five weeks, all jobs in northern Ontario would be wiped out in seven years. There would not be a job left. That is not a very long time. We have to do something. This is an emergency. We have 46,000 people unemployed in northern Ontario.

We are going to make this the welfare part of the province. That is not what we want to be living on in northern Ontario. We want to be gainfully employed. We want to be gainfully employed in resource industries, as long as those resources are required. That is part of the problem, because there is less and less demand as we move into the new service industries and high-technology industries from the old resources that were the basis of our economy in the past. What we want to do is move into the 20th century, into the rest of the 1980s and the 1990s with everybody else in this province. We want a fair share of the economic pie that this province provides.

What do we get when we ask questions of the Premier (Mr. Peterson)? Yesterday in the House my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) asked the Premier about the situation in northern Ontario, and the Premier answered: "I wish I could wave a magic wand and tell the member I had the solutions to all these problems. We are attacking them one by one as crises."

4 p.m.

The time has now passed when we can treat these layoffs and job disruptions as individual crises. We are putting out forest fires on an ad hoc basis. That is something we are used to in northern Ontario, but we do not want to run the economy that way. We want to plan the economy a little more because, as I said, the system has failed us. This cuts across much of the thinking in northern Ontario. No matter what party the people in the north belong to, they are starting to see that there must be an alternative.

That alternative has to be government action. The government will have to decide whether we will live in northern Ontario as part of the province. Are we going to live and prosper or are we all going to move south of North Bay? If we stay up there, we will have to start making decisions about what we will do as a society. There is a lot of hard thinking ahead. I hope this Legislature comes to grips with this problem by setting up some of the structure and by giving that structure the authority to proceed and recommend ideas.

In my riding, I have started that process already. I have produced what I call an economic challenge to Timiskaming. It is approximately 46 pages of my thoughts on how we can develop our

economy in my riding. The riding of Timiskaming which I represent does not have any big so-called growth centres, although these seem to be becoming a myth today. Even our growth centres in northern Ontario are declining. Timiskaming does not have a big manufacturing base, but because it has been very well blessed in the diversity of its resources, it has the chance to take the lead in northern Ontario by showing a bit of self-determination and by setting its own goals and development priorities.

We have quite a balanced set of resources in the riding of Timiskaming. The south end is a small clay belt in agricultural terms. It is a very rich agricultural area. We are also blessed with forestry and gold and iron ore mining. If the situation in Wawa keeps up, we will have the last two iron ore mines in Ontario.

I have laid out a plan for our area. I have challenged its people, and they have taken up that challenge. We must look at tourism and our resource industries of forestry, mining and agriculture. We must also develop a small business base in order to carry on an economy.

I believe tourism will play a big part in the economy of our area and in all of northern Ontario as people have more recreational time, as they want to get away from the urban centres of southern Ontario and look at the world as it used to be until man created his own world of pollution, hurry, hustle and everyday life in the city. We offer unspoiled nature in many areas. However, that is not good enough. We have relied on our beautiful resources to attract tourists, but these are distractions rather than attractions. We need to build attractions to bring people to our area as a tourist destination, to attract them there in the first place and to keep them there, to enjoy our area and some of its God-made and man-made wonders.

We have serious problems when it comes to people with capital. We do not have the high-paying jobs, so people have not accumulated any capital to invest. We have people with ideas. Some of our people are a little afraid to invest because they have been through the boom-and-bust cycles of our towns. They have had that entrepreneurial spirit, about which the speech from the throne talks so glowingly, beaten out of them. It is very difficult to take one's life savings after one has lost job after job and say, "I am going to create a business and do all those wonderful things the speech from the throne talks about."

We have a very different mentality in the north. It is almost a siege mentality, because we

have been under siege for so long. We need capital to develop our tourism base in the north. We need help with training and managerial skills. We have the ideas and we have the energy. We just need a little help. We need the tools to do what we want to accomplish in the north.

In mining—and maybe in some cases it is almost too late now—we should have set up a heritage fund 50 years ago. Our party has talked about this and has called it the northern Ontario tomorrow fund. We never put away for today—not just for tomorrow but for today—50 years ago, when there was a lot of money coming out of northern Ontario; we never put away for today and tomorrow.

This day has now come and we are losing jobs. Mines do not go on for ever; pulp plants do not go on for ever, because the resource has not been regenerated. We have not done that. I would still like to see that initiative put in place; it will help somewhat. When we get new discoveries, like Hemlo, some of the funds generated, instead of always going to general revenue, should be put aside to help those miners find new homes and new jobs.

We should never again open a mine and build a new town around it. Those days are over. We cannot afford to build any new towns in northern Ontario. We must keep the towns we have. We must give them the infrastructure to keep running, because the towns are run down from neglect. We have dilapidated water and sewer systems in our towns. There is a great demand for money there, and these towns are now starting to apply and to get these systems fixed up. We should never again be building new towns when we open mines, because mining basically evolves and revolves around a camp. It has been that camp mentality that the towns have had to keep; they actually started as camps out of tents and were developed into towns without much planning. That was a mistake in the past that we can now correct by stopping that development.

Some mining is going to continue in the future. Not only are we going to have to start to add value to some of the products we take out of the ground, but we should also be take that as an opportunity to supply the machinery and all the various supplies that mining requires from the north rather than bring in machines from Poland, Czechoslovakia, the United States and even Australia.

We have the technology and we have the resources to do that, but we do not have the determination or the political will to do it. We are going to have to start to develop that political will

so that we can create secondary industries—not something that is pie in the sky, like some car plant or something that is never going to happen in northern Ontario; those dreams are long vanished. We should develop secondary industries that are based on the resources we do have and that relate to them and can supply and nurture those resource industries.

In forestry, we are going to have to maximize the use of the resource that we have. For too long we have taken the forestry resource for granted. Until a very few years ago, we did not even replant and replace the resource we exploited. We thought it would go on for ever; we took for granted that God had blessed us with all these resources and that we could exploit them without being the stewards of those resources, nurturing them and replacing them.

4:10 p.m.

We are going to have to make more concerted efforts on our reforestation programs. We should also maximize those uses so that we do not have any waste, whether it be in the bush or at the mills, and use 100 per cent of the product, for example, in the cogeneration of the power for those plants, for heat, or whatever, for these plants. New technology may provide the ideas for it. We have to use all of the resource and try to add as much value as possible to it in creating some of these things we are losing now, as in plywood, waferboard and particle board mills. We need to produce more of those at the forest site.

Our area is one of the few in northern Ontario that has an agricultural base and, as with agriculture all over this province, we are in tremendous trouble. We need to diversify the crop base in the north. With plant genetics, this should be possible with new achievements in plant breeding. We also have to look at much smaller scales of trying to address the markets in the north rather than relying on the system that sends all our produce south with a lot of it coming back to supply our markets. There is no rationale in that type of system when the north could be self-sufficient in the production of milk, meat and cereal grains. We should have local mills to provide the flour for local bakeries and local abattoirs to provide meat for our local supermarkets.

In this province, we are so hooked in with a central distribution system for our food stores that all the jobs of any value are in southern Ontario. We add transportation costs for the farmer to bring the produce to Toronto, and again add transportation costs to bring it back into

northern Ontario for the consumer. A total rationalization of how we distribute food is needed. By doing that, we would provide jobs for people in the north. I am not looking for a handout. If we rationalize what we do, the jobs will be there. That is where we have to start thinking.

Small business does create some jobs. We have to provide small business opportunities in the north. A lot of that can be tied in with tourism opportunities both now and the future. However, we need the capital and we need some of the expertise and the help that is available from government, with government taking a part in the planning process of where we are going.

I could continue with story after story of how the north is being affected by the loss of jobs, especially lately. I hope the message is starting to get through. I want to give other members a chance to address this speech today. I thank them for this opportunity. I hope we can work for the economy of this province, especially of northern Ontario, as we go further into the 1980s.

Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to rise in the House today in reply—

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I understood that there would be the normal rotation following the opportunity to ask questions.

The Deputy Speaker: That is the chair's problem. The rotation is going in the normal way. Does someone from the government side wish to speak?

Hon. Ms. Munro: I was delighted that the initial throne speech of our new Liberal government was delivered by a fellow Hamiltonian.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not mean to interrupt the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Munro), but according to the new rules, surely Mr. Speaker should ask whether there are any members who wish to make comments or ask questions of the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay).

The Deputy Speaker: The member is quite correct. Do we have the unanimous consent of the House to revert to questions and comments?

Agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments? There being none, the member for Hamilton Centre.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I was delighted that the initial throne speech of our new Liberal government was delivered by a fellow Hamiltonian, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. This was particularly appropriate because the agenda set

forth in the address holds so much promise for the people of Hamilton-Wentworth.

This first Liberal throne speech in more than four decades has adopted a long-term, long-range perspective, indicating that our government is not obsessed with a quest for short-term political advantage. We are here to serve the lasting interests of the people of Ontario.

The focus of our throne speech is not the next year or the next election, but the next decade. We will move on the fundamental challenges that must be addressed to prepare Ontario for the world of the 1990s and beyond.

A global economy now exists, and Ontario's industries are fighting a world-wide competitive battle, based on services, knowledge, information and new technology. Our society is evolving rapidly as a result of demographic trends, the changing role of women and shifting immigration patterns.

These social and economic challenges are well known. What is new is the determination to do something about them. I am confident the Premier's council announced in the speech from the throne will provide the leadership we need to steer Ontario to the forefront of economic growth and technological innovation.

Among other tasks, this high-level council will direct a \$1-billion special technology fund, including at least \$500 million in new money, to be allocated in the next 10 years. The fund will support and encourage science and technology research in the private sector and in our post-secondary institutions. The overriding goal is to build a world-class Ontario economy for the 21st century.

My riding of Hamilton Centre is aptly named because it is the heart of Hamilton-Wentworth, not only geographically but also economically as the home of Stelco and Dofasco. Through investment in new technology and human resources, these two steel giants have demonstrated that Ontario industries can become world-class competitors. However, as the throne speech observes, while Ontario can look forward to economic advantages in the future, these will differ from those we have enjoyed in the past.

One of our new growth opportunities is the service sector, which now provides jobs for more than 70 per cent of Ontario's work force and is forecast to grow even more in the next decade. Services to business in particular are expanding rapidly.

In Hamilton, Westinghouse Canada, under president and chief executive officer Ted Priesner, has recently capitalized on this trend. The

company has turned its human resources consulting group from a cost centre into a profit centre by selling the team's expertise to outside clients.

Tourism is a further high-potential service industry. Hamilton-Wentworth has built up its tourism base and now ranks as a first-class travel destination. Facilities such as our magnificent Victor Copps Arena and Trade Centre, the Hamilton Convention Centre, the new Sheraton Hotel and the Hamilton Place theatre put us on the map. As Minister of Citizenship and Culture, I am particularly proud of Hamilton's cultural attractions, such as our unique Royal Botanical Gardens, a terrific art gallery, a first-class philharmonic orchestra and a talented opera company.

We are not stopping there. The community is seeking federal and provincial dollars for the west harbour development, which would include boating facilities, exhibition space and an exciting crystal palace. My ministry is working with Theatre Aquarius to find a new home for one of the province's largest and most dynamic community theatre groups. My ministry is supporting underwater archaeological work on the Hamilton and the Scourge, two War of 1812 schooners, which are potentially among our most valuable heritage and tourism resources. The region is looking into the possibility of creating an iron and steel museum, which would have strong tourist drawing power.

I was delighted to see in the speech from the throne that the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is developing a long-term tourism strategy for Ontario. Hamilton-Wentworth looks forward to playing a lead role in the future of Ontario's dynamic tourism industry.

Culture and the arts represent a thriving and growing service industry in their own right. In Ontario, the cultural sector now employs more workers than any manufacturing industry group except transportation equipment and generates revenues of \$3.5 billion a year.

Film and video have become an increasingly vital artistic and commercial enterprise in our information society. I am pleased the Ontario Film Development Corp. is now open for business with a three-year, \$20-million budget. The corporation will deliver the necessary support to reverse the erosion of Ontario's leadership in Canadian film production.

The throne speech pledges new support for small business and entrepreneurship. We recognize that Ontario's main hope for future job creation depends on the initiative of risk-takers

and entrepreneurs who invest their funds and hopes in new small to medium-sized enterprises.

My Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, for example, will introduce a native economic participation program to provide opportunity for native entrepreneurs. This measure will help Ontario's aboriginal peoples to retain and strengthen their unique cultural heritage through economic development.

As the throne speech observes, entrepreneurship is as important on the shop floor as it is in the boardroom. I am pleased that companies in my area of regional responsibility, such as Procter and Gamble in Hamilton and Linear Technology in Burlington, are in the forefront of the movement to provide workers with a direct stake in their firm's success.

To realize their potential, our industries require the full talents and contributions of women, who now represent 43 per cent of the work force. The speech from the throne announced that new child care spaces will be created to advance economic equity. This is good news for Hamilton, where we have one of the highest proportions of single-parent families in this province.

The throne speech responds to the economic needs of Ontario's regions. As a member of the new cabinet committee on northern development, I was especially pleased with the emphasis on northern Ontario. For example, tourism in the north will receive a boost and primary industries will be bolstered. For the rest of this century and into the next, Ontario's economic success will depend on our ability to sell goods and services in the fiercely competitive world market. We must act now to expand our trade horizons, particularly to the nations of the Pacific Rim, the fastest-growing market in the world.

Last year, Ontario concluded a twinning arrangement with the highly industrialized Chinese province of Jiangsu. It is gratifying that this provincial initiative has sparked community interest in stronger international ties. I encourage Hamilton-Wentworth, for example, in its efforts to seek a twin city in Jiangsu to promote local social, cultural and business opportunities in China. I welcome the throne speech announcement of the next stage in building closer relations with China, the opening of an Ontario science, technology and centre there. Cultural contacts will be vital in creating the trust and confidence on which commercial dealings depend.

I believe that as a multicultural society, Ontario has a special edge in international competition. For example, our many residents

born in other countries could provide first-hand advice on how to do business and how to appeal to consumers in their former homelands. Tapping this resource is an idea that Ontario exporters might consider.

While Ontario welcomes the challenge of more open commerce, we draw the line where our cultural sovereignty is at stake. Our national identity is too valuable to sacrifice on the altar of free trade. As the Premier has cautioned, we must remember that trade issues involve not only Canada's economic survival but our political, social and cultural survival as well. Canadian cultural survival and sovereignty must be protected and nurtured.

Culture can be viewed in developmental, nurturance and maintenance terms. Despite its undeniable economic dimension, it can also be described, first and foremost, as an end in itself. This is a principle the throne speech reaffirms. Government policies will continue to recognize the importance of the arts and the need for an arm's-length relationship with funded cultural groups. I stress that this is more than rhetoric. One of the first acts of our new government was to raise the budget of the Ontario Arts Council by \$2 million to meet the needs of regional arts organizations and newly emerging art forms.

The throne speech rightly proclaims a message of confidence and optimism. Ontario's future is bright. A key bridge to the future is excellence in education. The government has no higher priority than to restore relevance to education at all levels. We must shape a generation capable of innovating, adapting and seizing opportunities. I am delighted that as an immediate step, TVOntario will receive increased funding to produce more programming, with emphasis on science education.

We will also reinforce the effort to help students and teachers become more familiar and comfortable with computer technology. This initiative will build on the success of my ministry's computers-and-children program, which provides computer exposure through community-based centres across this province.

The government will place greater emphasis on co-operative education programs and other measures to smooth the transition to the work force. Hamiltonians are justly proud of the co-op programs at Mohawk College that reflect an effective partnership between industry and the educational system.

As the throne speech emphasizes, to overcome the many challenges we face, we must harness the full potential of our post-secondary system.

The government will encourage the development of centres of excellence in Ontario universities. Coming from Hamilton Centre, I know that McMaster University can contribute significantly to such advanced facilities, given the opportunity and the challenge. The speech also remarks that schools can achieve excellence by recognizing the need to co-operate as well to compete. I am happy that McMaster University has displayed this co-operative spirit through an extremely worthwhile joint venture with the University of Waterloo to compile and share the results of health research.

The realities of global competition and new technology make necessary a new approach to training and skills upgrading on an ongoing basis for the entire labour force. With my career background in continuing education, I welcome the throne speech initiatives to improve the basic and technical skills of older laid-off workers.

Government will work to meet retraining needs in partnership with the community. In Hamilton, it is heartening that the Citizen Action Group has taken the initiative to establish the Hamilton Help Centre for older workers, which will open its doors this Friday. The centre will provide employment counselling, skills training and placement services, primarily for adults over 40 years of age who have lost jobs in heavy industry. The project has been made possible by 50 per cent funding from the Ministry of Skills Development.

In an era when people represent our most vital economic asset, we can no longer afford the waste of human resources caused by illiteracy. Furthermore, inability to read can be hazardous if, for example, workers cannot understand warning labels on chemicals or equipment. This government will propose measures to combat this widespread problem. Public libraries will serve as one channel for delivery of literacy training. We will build on the achievements of programs such as the adult basic education project at the Hamilton Public Library, which has successfully assisted adults to learn and to adapt.

English-as-a-second-language courses, funded by my ministry, provide newcomers with the basic skills needed to function in modern Ontario. We are now emphasizing the concept of English in the work place, which includes not only language classes but also all aspects of communications with a multicultural work force.

The throne speech not only addresses the economic imperatives that confront us; it also comes to grips with the profound social and demographic changes now under way. One of the

most significant developments is the growth in the number of elderly persons. Between now and the year 2001, the province will record a 41 per cent increase in people over the age of 65. In Hamilton-Wentworth, the proportion of seniors in the population surpasses the provincial average. The vast majority of senior citizens today are active participants in their communities. Our first priority must be to help them remain that way. Today's seniors, by and large, are healthier, better educated and more active than previous older generations. They have much to offer, and they want the opportunity to lead productive and useful lives.

I am proud that Ontario is the first Canadian jurisdiction to appoint a cabinet member responsible for the specific concerns of senior citizens. Very shortly the minister will release a white paper on health and social services for the elderly. I am confident this document will provide clear directions to best serve the needs of Ontario's senior citizens in ways that will allow them to maintain their independence.

To meet the needs of our elderly residents, we must strengthen geriatric care resources in the province. The throne speech announced that a multidisciplinary department of geriatrics will be established in an Ontario university as part of a major commitment to improve teaching in this area. What better site for this new geriatric centre than McMaster University in Hamilton? The university's health sciences centre established the R. Samuel McLaughlin Centre for Gerontological Health Research in 1984 and has supported five researchers in medicine and nursing since then. Other examples across our universities are in evidence.

McMaster University has also raised \$1 million for geriatric research since the establishment of the McLaughlin centre. Other Hamilton facilities specializing in the care of the elderly are located nearby, such as St. Peter's day hospital and Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals' chronic care unit and rehabilitation centre. All in all, McMaster would be an ideal environment for this new geriatrics department.

Ontario's health care system ranks with the world's best. I welcome the commitment expressed in the throne speech to begin to plan now for the provision of first-class health care well into the 21st century. Hamilton hospitals have broken new ground in improving the quality of health care service through co-operation and teamwork. A prime example is the computerized central bed registry, which has been operating for the past three years. The system provides

round-the-clock information on the availability of hospital beds and the status of emergency rooms at the five participating hospitals. We are delighted this concept is now being implemented in other major Ontario communities including Metro Toronto.

The throne speech recognizes another fundamental social shift that has transformed Ontario life, the emergence of a multicultural society. The government will put in place a new policy on race relations and community harmony to ensure that Ontario remains a model of tolerance and understanding.

To ensure the fundamental rights of francophones in this province, we have introduced legislation to guarantee French-language services, and we will increase interpreter services in the courts to facilitate access by those whose mother tongue is neither English nor French. In the Hamilton area, 26 per cent of residents were born outside Canada. In percentage terms, this is the largest immigrant population of all metropolitan areas in the province, except Toronto. Last month I officially opened the new Hamilton Welcome House to extend our newcomer services to the many immigrants and refugees making Hamilton-Wentworth their new home.

4:30 p.m.

I appreciate the interest of the McMaster Health Sciences Centre in improving access of ethnocultural groups to medical care. We are looking at an imaginative McMaster proposal to sensitize hospital and medical personnel to differing cultural attitudes towards health care.

It was refreshing to hear a speech from the throne taking a long-range perspective. This innovative document sets forth an agenda for the next decade. It offers a framework for long-term achievement rather than a list of short-term promises. I look forward to specific announcements by individual ministers to provide a more detailed blueprint of this general design for progress and reform.

We are now beginning the task of building a world-class society for our children and our children's children into the 21st century.

Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to rise in the House today to reply to the speech from the throne. Before I begin my remarks, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those individuals and groups of citizens with whom I have met over the past number of months to discuss and examine a variety of issues in the community and social services fields. Their dedication to solving many of the problems and issues that exist in the province, and their real

human compassion for those who suffer or who are inflicted with some element of injustice is a significant and yet often understated contribution they have made not only in their own neighbourhood but also throughout the province.

I have met with elderly people in nursing homes, I have talked with concerned parents whose children have come into conflict with the law and I have been in the halls of halfway houses and detention homes where our youth of today fear the uncertainty of tomorrow. In meeting with those groups and individuals, I have been impressed, not so much with the difference in views on how to solve the issues, but rather with the commonality of their commitment to be vigilant day after day in making this province a more humane place to live and one that responds to both the needs and expectations of its citizens.

As a Presbyterian minister who has travelled the province and visited the remote and often destitute regions and townships, as former chairman of the York Region Board of Education, as one who has dealt with cases of child abuse and educational deprivation, and as a parent who has had to nurture children through an often delicate and difficult stage of life, I know full well the challenges facing Ontarians and the commitment that is required to make effective and beneficial changes. It is that virtue of commitment which, in reality, we are all discussing today in this House.

The speech from the throne purported to be the direction of the new administration, one formed as a result of political convenience and one that will have questions raised today, and most certainly tomorrow, about its motivations and its credibility. Let us not forget that this is a coalition government formed as a result of paragraphs on a page between two parties, not as the result of a definitive election. During the past year, this coalition has ignored the way in which Ontarians have come to expect governments to function: with discussion, consultation, consensus and pragmatism. The people voted for a parliament. What they have witnessed is nothing short of a cabal.

The issues addressed in the speech from the throne dealing with aspects of community and social services, care for the elderly, increased health care and the protection of individuals from injustice, whether it be wife abuse or those in need of housing shelter, are not new phenomena or part of a blueprint that has suddenly been discovered by an administration that found itself in opposition only a year ago.

For this administration to suggest that it has found the road to Damascus or that it alone has the secret formula to galvanize human compassion and fiscal responsibility to produce solutions to complex and long-standing issues is a testimony to arrogance and an insult to individual interest groups and previous governments which have dedicated themselves over the past number of years to find both creative and workable solutions. As this administration will come to learn, solutions are found not in an atmosphere of belligerence or confrontation, but rather in the spirit of co-operation, in dialogue and in a course that is evolutionary, not abrupt.

During the past year, this coalition of convenience has demonstrated in full view to the public that its approach to solutions is not to tackle important and far-reaching matters with collective resolve, consultation or pragmatism but rather with actions that produce crises and divisiveness and that pit faction against faction, interest groups against interested parties and individual against individual.

If this be the road to Damascus, where the stick of legislative fiat is supposed to triumph over a commitment to collective agreement, then I suggest it is a road that many members of this House, and the citizenry they represent, will and must reject. For that is not the tradition of good government; it is not an atmosphere that the people of this province will accept as being progressive or prudent.

We all know the litany of examples that have been produced in this province in less than 12 months that have revealed an administration that is using the leverage of power to get its way instead of using the fundamental principles of consensus and co-operation. Whether they be doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, truckers or industrial producers, this administration acts as if it believes the bullet is more effective than the ballot.

As the critic of this party who is responsible for the Community and Social Services portfolio, I have taken great interest in what the current minister has said and done over the past number of months. That ministry has the third-largest provincial government budget, with expenditures of \$2.77 billion proposed for 1986-87. That amount is exceeded only by health and education spending. It is estimated that 10 cents of every dollar spent by the province this year will go towards social services. The management of that portfolio has a tremendous responsibility. Not only does it take into account the addressing of significant human issues, but it also demands a

prudent fiscal approach and an ability to manage financial resources to ensure an optimum level of efficiency and delivery of service.

As this party's critic, I have had the opportunity to meet with people who want a rejuvenated approach to social policy, one that will put people's lives ahead of rigid policy structure and that will demand their participation, not command their obedience. In this context, I acknowledge that the minister has undertaken to review various aspects of his ministry. In particular, he indicated recently that he has launched a major review of Ontario's social services network and has vowed to overhaul a system which he says is 50 years out of date. While this initiative may be worthwhile and may recognize continual maintenance criteria that have been instituted over the past number of years under previous Conservative governments, I believe it is critical that input from communities throughout this province be obtained as to the priorities that are necessary to serve people best.

My fear is that the public process will not be instituted to gain and achieve a well-rounded consensus. While the minister himself has assured this House that there will be public participation, I note that the Premier, in commenting on his minister's initiatives, agreed there were serious problems with the province's social services network that require examination. However, he refused to commit himself to public hearings.

4:40 p.m.

Notwithstanding the contradiction between the minister and the Premier, we on this side of the House, and others in this province, have to wonder whether the confrontational aspects that have occurred between different groups during the past year simply portend the process that we now will experience in the Community and Social Services portfolio. If that is the case, if there is no public process, then I can assure the minister and the Premier that this party will do everything it can to ensure a fair and open process, because these issues are far too important to be sacrificed to political expediency. The impact that these decisions will have on our future is too critical to allow it to ignore common concerns and expertise from across the province.

I can assure the minister that this party will never allow a person in need to have a gun put to his head by a coalition government. The process must be open and accessible and must respect the right of individuals to have an input into decisions that will affect their lives personally and those of their families.

Perhaps the greatest challenge we face over the coming decades is how to respond to the care of not only our current elderly but also those who will require services in the future. Seniors' concerns, not only for today but also for tomorrow, are real. Their fears about future care are immediate, and their bewilderment at how to cope with a system that appears to commit them as opposed to being committed to them, is almost overwhelming.

Once again, issues of concern to the elderly are not the proprietary concerns of any one political party. Over the past 30 years, we have witnessed intensive study and reform in a broad range of areas which affect the senior citizens and future generations of this province. The results of many of those studies appear to have understated the critical impact the rapid shift in demographics is going to have on the face of our society.

In this party, we believe there is an urgent need to develop a more co-ordinated and community-based approach to services for the elderly, a group that will increase by 55 per cent in the next 15 years. If we do not have the infrastructure in place to deal with the anticipated real needs of that section of our society, we will have betrayed our role as public representatives and legislators.

The Progressive Conservative Party has always been firm, and will remain firm, in its commitment not only to bettering the services for our current elderly but also to ensuring that future generations receive the best possible care. We recognize the need to co-ordinate various ministries involved with all aspects of senior citizen care. The goal of this party is to develop a plan linking families, community services, hospitals and nursing homes in such a way as to enhance the wellbeing and independence of our senior citizens.

During the past number of months, I have witnessed the effects of institutionalization on our seniors. I have come to believe that it is not so much the amount of money we commit to a proper infrastructure, but rather where that money should be directed, where it will have its greatest impact and where it will maximize services and assistance for those who need it most.

If we continue at the same rate of institutionalization of our elderly, by the year of 2001, the increased cost of health care will be almost \$6 billion. While our government is now spending \$855 million annually on inappropriately placed seniors, only \$68 million is spent on health and social services support alternatives.

In addition, as a result of the process that we began and by talking with all facets of the elderly

care community, we recognize that existing aspects of the community-based system are underdeveloped, underfunded and unco-ordinated. Further, we advocated that the extended care system must be examined fully to improve, expand and integrate it into a network of community services.

We must draw upon the ingenuity and capital resources of the private sector wherever appropriate. Government does not have an inexhaustible revenue base to ensure that facilities are continually updated and well managed. What it does possess is the ability to encourage innovative solutions and to be vigilant in ensuring that proper standards of care are met. If we do not respond collectively to this challenge, the implications not only for our elderly but also for the entire structure of government, both fiscal and administrative, will be imperilled.

To demonstrate our party's commitment to this priority, the Progressive Conservative Party on April 14, released a discussion paper entitled *Care for the Elderly*, 1986, under the direction of our leader, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman). In my role as chairman of this party's task force on human and social services, I can say that we are going to go throughout this province to meet with interested parties and groups to discuss the very questions that need to be answered to determine the future of services for our elderly.

This discussion paper was produced on the basis of extensive input by concerned citizens and representatives of our party. We believe this discussion paper recognizes the priority that this party places not only on providing creative solutions in an evolving issue but also on ensuring that the widest possible input is obtained for the future of human and social services in this province.

While we are out there meeting with people and doing something about the future, the current administration, with more resources available to it to address these matters, has yet to leave the starting block. We have noted with interest that the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), who is the Minister without Portfolio responsible for specific concerns of senior citizens, will shortly release a white paper on health and social services for the elderly. We applaud the minister and the current administration for following in the wake of our example. Perhaps it is better to come late than not at all.

We hope the minister will release the white paper at the earliest convenience of his cabinet colleagues, since we understand he has had some

difficulty in convincing them of its priority. The difference is that this party does not have to be convinced of the priority of its senior citizens. Through experience and sensitivity, this party has recognized that priority for years, and it continues to act with determination.

There is a lack of chronic care spaces throughout the province. As a result, there is a critical problem of logjams in the health care system, where acute care spaces in hospitals are filled by chronic care patients at enormous expense to the province. It is critical not only that a long-term framework be developed but also that the administration alleviate pressures which are growing more serious every day.

In its speech from the throne, the administration makes no mention of the regulation of homes for the aged and the need to rationalize inspection, licensing and funding structures with those of nursing homes. Another area of growing concern is the power of attorney in homes for the elderly. The administration must ensure that there is no potential for conflict of interest or abuse in this regard. As the demographic shift in our population becomes more acute, it is important that we address the current pressure being exerted on homes for the aged and nursing homes.

This province owes its prominence to the work and sacrifice of its senior citizens. They have provided us with a rich tradition and the fruits of their hard work. In turn, we owe them nothing less than our total support, our respect and our ability to ensure that they can live their lives with independence and dignity.

4:50 p.m.

We must also ensure that the youth of our province is provided for and that families have adequate access to proper day care facilities. Everyone has to wonder about this administration's commitment to day care as reflected in the speech from the throne. The prominence that day care was accorded in the speech from the throne was one sentence on the third-last page. This is an issue that surely deserves more of a commitment than a vague statement that "new spaces will be created."

Significant questions remain to be answered by the administration on the issue of day care. How does this administration plan to address the lack of affordable day care for our citizens? What is the minister's response to the federal task force report produced by Katie Cooke? Is the minister continuing or discounting the indirect subsidy to municipal child care centres? What is the minister planning to do, in view of the fact that

more than 80 per cent of existing child care facilities in this province are in the unlicensed, unregulated setting?

I suggest that day care and child support services no longer can be viewed by any sector as a privilege. Such support must be viewed as a necessary part of our total economic and social infrastructure. We must share the responsibility for providing adequate child support and day care services wherever possible. The government and its affiliated agencies cannot do the job alone. What is required is a complete commitment by leaders in the fields of government, business, labour and education to promote and to share in the funding of proper facilities. Our approach must be one of commitment and collective resolve.

In addition to the concerns we have expressed for our seniors and for those families with children, there is a wider and more pervasive group in society that must receive our continuous support. I refer to those people in our cities, towns and other communities who are in need of social assistance, care and attention.

It is a tragedy that in this thriving province, more than 40 per cent of Ontarians on social assistance are children. These children become part of a vicious circle in our society. Studies have shown that when they grow up poor, they are often sick, poorly educated and more susceptible to addiction, psychological problems and participation in crime. It comes as no surprise that many poor children do not get jobs when they grow up. Studies have also shown that violence is a distinguishable byproduct of those who face frustration and roadblocks on every rung of the social ladder.

None of us is immune to the tragic personal stories that appear day after day in the public press and that are raised in this House: inadequate shelter for families who are struggling to feed their children on an income at or below the poverty line; intolerable housing conditions that are without facilities as basic as hot running water and that have roaches and insects infesting walls and mattresses; displaced individuals who wander the streets looking for hot-air vents in winter to keep warm or abandoned cars in which to sleep or to die.

While these tragic human conditions may produce social unrest and violence in our society, I believe there is another form of violence that is far more dangerous and far-reaching. That is the violence of indifference. It is the indifference of our institutions to human need, the indifference of individuals to the problems we face in this

regard and the indifference to acting with compassion when the circumstances demand.

In what we hope will not be a witchhunt, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has indicated he is going to undertake a review of the province's welfare system, the cost of which is \$1.6 billion. We look forward to participating in the ensuing discussion. However, this review has been under way since last October and the minister has not indicated when it will be completed. We believe the minister must attend to the plight of the homeless and to the issue of the lack of affordable housing for low-income singles and others. In the Metropolitan Toronto area alone, there are approximately 10,000 homeless individuals.

On February 25, 1986, a coroner's jury in Toronto issued its verdict concerning Drina Joubert. While Ms. Joubert's circumstance is not reflective of the total group of individuals who fall under the umbrella of social assistance, it is indicative of a condition which exists and to which all of us must respond so others will not suffer the same peril.

The coroner's report listed exposure as the cause of death. The report cites the cause in one simple sentence: "Accident caused by alcoholism, mental illness and homelessness, and the failure of our support system to deal with these problems." It is important that our perspective in this case be not one of trying to analyse the personal characteristics of the individual which led to this end but rather how we as a society and as legislators can best prevent such circumstances from occurring in the future.

We have yet to hear what the follow-up has been to this report. Let us hope the minister has the courage to address this matter for the benefit of others.

In the final analysis, we must ensure that our attitude towards those who are less fortunate or those who are displaced and require assistance is not one that suggests they are second-class citizens in our society. We must redouble our efforts to eradicate the stigma of social assistance. We must begin with a proper orientation of attitude that recognizes these individuals are an integral part of our society.

I find it ironic that at the most recent meeting of the Liberal Party in Ontario, resolution 3.22 stated: "Be it resolved that a 25 per cent increase in provincial and federal funding be provided immediately for the creation and operation of transition houses, rape crisis centres, support and follow-up services." While its own party drafts resolutions of good intentions, the current

administration remains quiet in the speech from the throne on what it intends to do in this important subject. It is a sad commentary on this administration when there is more commitment to be found in the membership of its party than in its leadership which represents them in this legislature.

Incidents of child abuse and sexual abuse are becoming more common and widespread in our communities. The federal government's Badgley report, which was released in 1984, found that there is a high incidence of child sexual abuse; that present laws are inadequate in protecting children from abuse; that services of public agencies are inadequate to treat and rehabilitate victims, family members and perpetrators of abuse; that there is a lack of co-ordination and collaboration between services, and, perhaps most important, that immediate action on behalf of all governments is required to deal with these circumstances. This issue must be addressed.

The speech from the throne makes modest passing comments on programs to assist victims of crime and physical abuse and to sensitize staff in crown attorneys' offices to deal with these matters. It will require more than a few paragraphs in the speech from the throne to instil confidence that these issues are a matter of personal priority.

5 p.m.

In closing, I would like to make a few comments with regard to my own riding, York Centre, which is probably the fastest-growing riding in our province. We have seen the signs of growth that are causing problems of great concern to the people of our community. I question where the government leadership is in not doing more to address the needs for roads and transportation systems.

Highway 407 was at least mentioned in the speech from the throne last year, but it is totally absent from the speech this year. Transportation systems to provide commuter service through GO Transit are an imperative and must be provided. We are seeing the whole social infrastructure of a community pushed to overcapacity by the number of people in our community. I challenge this government to begin to do something to build hospital beds, schools and those services so our community can continue to be strong.

In Ontario, we should be immensely proud of the services that are available for our citizens. However, the quality of life in this province goes far beyond an array of government programs. It encompasses respect for the individual and

recognition of the need for independence and initiative. It also includes respect and diversity.

In the words of our former Premier, William Davis: "Ontarians have always expected more from us. They have always expected that extra bit of tolerance, that extra bit of understanding, that extra mile in defence of minority rights and civility. They have expected that extra measure of pragmatism and decency."

This is the proud heritage of our party and of our province. But while it is a proud heritage, it is not a heritage that is self-sustaining. The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, under the leadership of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) and with the collective strength of its caucus, will never let the issues which I have raised today become trivialized by an administration created out of expediency or by an administration that seeks to resolve issues by intimidation or force.

In the final analysis, when the current administration has run its course of expediency, the people of this province will choose the path of substance over style and a Progressive Conservative Party that has the experience to confront fundamental issues in a balanced and sensitive way.

Mr. Foulds: First of all, I want to compliment my friend for giving this House one of the finest examples of sanctimonious puffery that I have ever heard in my 15 years in this place.

The honourable member talked about a fair and open process. I ask him to tell me what fair and open process took place under the previous administration, of which he was a member, when one of his own colleagues, the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), who was universally respected in this House as Deputy Speaker, was dropped by the former Premier? What kind of consultation took place with the members of his own caucus or with the members of the House as a whole?

What fair and open process took place under the previous administration when appointments were made to boards, agencies and commissions? When Tom Campbell was selected as chairman of Ontario Hydro, was that brought before the select committee on energy?

What fair and open process took place when the previous administration deep-sixed—in other words, terminated—the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs, chaired by a former leader of this party, Donald MacDonald? When the member indicates how much is spent on institutional care and how much is spent on community care for seniors, which government and which

party made the decisions about that in the budget?

Finally, I ask the member to answer this question. When he talks about new transit systems for the province, which party and which government cancelled the advanced light rail transit project and caused the problems he is talking about and the loss of jobs in Kingston and Thunder Bay at the Urban Transportation Development Corp.?

Mr. McClellan: I would like to continue in the same vein. The honourable member has put a lot of effort into his speech, ignoring the reality that his government was in power for the past 42 years. I would have been more impressed if he had been able to answer a number of questions which I will put to him now. He can answer them in his summation.

If the member is concerned about the shortage of chronic care beds, can he explain to us why his ministry had a freeze on nonprofit nursing home beds between 1976 and 1983? If he is concerned about the problems in our welfare system, can he explain why there are differential rates between general welfare assistance, family benefits, the guaranteed annual income system for the aged and the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled?

If he is concerned about the plight of people with special education problems, can he explain why under Frank Drea, during the Conservative government, vocational rehabilitation services were withdrawn from children with learning disabilities? If he is concerned about child care facilities, can he explain why day care is still provided as a welfare service instead of as a universal service on an affordable basis accessible to everybody who requires it?

If the member is concerned about care for the elderly, can he explain why the Grossman task force—does his leader never give any credit to the critics?—which was set up in 1986, is dealing with problems that were created in the 1970s when this government tried and failed to develop a home support service for the elderly? My friend the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) will remember the government's attempts to develop a comprehensive service. It could not resolve the jurisdictional dispute between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. That dispute still has not been solved. Perhaps the member can answer the question "Why not?"

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order. Your time is over.

Mr. Cureatz: By my understanding of the revised standing orders of the Legislative Assembly, I am entitled to the opportunity to participate in and make comments on the member's speech.

First, I thank the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) for what I think were complimentary comments in terms of the few humble years I served in the august position in which you, Mr. Speaker, currently serve. We like to think that from time to time our decisions were more than judicious.

I compliment my colleague the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) on his speech. In a lot of ways he brought forward some of his special concerns as critic in regard to the responsibilities we now have as members of Her Majesty's loyal opposition. I would particularly like to bring to everyone's attention his concerns about the transportation system that is currently taking place in Ontario; as he indicated well, it is not taking place.

I know my learned friend and colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) agrees with me that in recent times we have had some concerns about the Liberal government's commitment to the transportation policies that were brought forward so well under the previous Conservative administration. There was a commitment by the Conservative government to the extension of the GO rail policy east of Pickering into Oshawa under our former and great Ministers of Transportation and Communications, Jim Snow and the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague). After the change in government and what we shall call the unhappy union of the Liberal and New Democratic Party coalition, what policy do we have now? Do the members know what the policy is? There is no policy.

Mr. McClellan: More of the same old bad stuff we had before.

Mr. Cureatz: That is right; more of the same bad stuff from the NDP and Liberal coalition.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Your time is up.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I want to add to the list of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). Perhaps the member for York Centre will answer these questions in his comments. What has happened to that Progressive Conservative thinking if we have today in Ontario 25 per cent who are functionally illiterate? Perhaps the honourable member can also explain what has happened to the appointments that should have gone to visible minorities and to women. Why were they not included in all the great appointments they had in their time? These are only two things, and I have thousands more, but I know the member

for Bellwoods has given him many to respond to. I would like the member for York Centre to include these two in his response.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Cureatz: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Have the 10 minutes been totally used up now?

Mr. Foulds: He gets to reply.

Mr. Cureatz: I know he gets a reply, but in case—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cousens: I am honoured by the fact that the members of the third party were listening. I appreciate the fact that there is a question from my friend the member for York North (Mr. Sorbara).

As we look at ourselves in opposition, we remember with pride the points of leadership that were there in the past. There was leadership in day care, leadership for the elderly and leadership in the Enterprise Ontario program of last year, which showed the commitment of our party and its leaders to the people of Ontario.

The member can say, "You did not do everything," but this province has been ahead of all the other provinces in this country in doing things for people, and that is what counts. I challenge this government today to do the same thing, because people need the support of the government to maintain—

Mr. McClellan: It is doing exactly the same thing.

Mr. Cousens: No. It is not happening; we are not seeing it. There is no commitment to roads. There is no commitment to senior citizens. The member is talking about a report that does not exist, and we are concerned. The member is talking about a speech from the throne that is empty and void. It has not shown direction.

I thank the member for Durham East for his support. I too have always respected his leadership in the House. It is great to see him stand up.

The member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling) asked what we did when we were in government to recommend and support people of different minority groups. There are many examples, and they start with the Ombudsman, who is more than an example; he is the epitome of what makes up our society, the best of what it is all about. There are many examples of where we have shown that kind of leadership in the past. I can say with honesty and integrity that we as a party are going to be loyal to the truths that have made us strong in the past, and that is what will make us strong in the future.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to have the opportunity to reply to the throne speech. As the critic for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, I will start by making particular reference to the thrust of the speech, which is in terms of technology, a word that is used only a few times less often in the speech than the words "world-class." The problem with the initiative in technology is that it is extremely vague. It requires some substance so we know what the intentions of this government are in its technological initiatives.

The throne speech talks about where the government sees the province going in the 21st century, but there is a lack of focus on what is happening in Ontario today and on what we can do in the next year, in the next session of government, in terms of specific action on technology.

Early in the statement the government says its initiative "outlines some of the steps Ontario must take over the next decade to ensure its place as the world-class society of the 21st century." Unfortunately, we have much more serious problems today, and we have to worry about where the province is going to be next month and next year, given the lack of specific initiatives in this throne speech. I hope the budget coming from the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) next week will be much more specific and will include some initiatives that will benefit the people of this province.

The initiative in the area of technology talks about a \$1-billion commitment. The problem is that it is over 10 years and only half of it is new money. What the government is talking about is only a new \$50 million per year. It is something that sounds good to the press. It makes a lot better headlines when the government says it has a \$1-billion program, but there is not much of substance even in this particular initiative.

More specifically, we need to have the government's attention focused on what the impacts of technological development and changing technology will be on the work place and on our communities in the year and years to come. We have to develop mechanisms that will permit adjustment to changing technology, work places and industries in our province.

There is no doubt that technology is vitally important to set up a framework whereby the province can continue to progress and maintain the competitiveness of our industries and the development of technological initiatives that are a vital part of any government intent on establishing an industrial strategy. I hope the

initiative in the area of technology will be part of a major government strategy for the direction in which we are going with industry in this province and for ensuring that we have an economy that is sensibly planned on the basis of the needs, jobs, economic growth and stability. Such a strategy would also ensure that we utilize to the best of our ability the talents of the people and training we have in this province and the resources that can be better used in producing manufactured goods to a greater finished degree, putting more added value into the product of this province and creating the jobs we all need so desperately here.

As a northern member and as the member for Sault Ste. Marie, I have to be particularly concerned about the direction in which this speech from the throne is headed as compared to what the needs are of northern Ontario. Reading and listening to the speech from the throne, one definitely gets the perspective that the government is talking about southern Ontario, the Golden Horseshoe, and its vision for the expanding metropolis centred on Toronto for the decades to come. There is a desperate lack of understanding of the other areas of this province and a lack of recognition of the needs for a balanced economy, jobs and a growth in economic activity in areas outside the Golden Horseshoe. This speech from the throne is woefully lacking in terms of recognition of the problems in northern Ontario and proposals for action for the north.

I would like to go through this quite lengthy speech from the throne very briefly. There are only four or five paragraphs that make reference to northern Ontario and to initiatives of direct relevance to the north. Perhaps we can look at the intentions of this government.

The first reference has to do with farming: "A special program will be put in place to provide marketing assistance to northern Ontario farmers and widen consumer choice in that region." This is an area of concern to a number of farmers in the north, but it is not a major part of the northern economy in comparison to a number of other industries and resource sectors which are not mentioned at all.

5:20 p.m.

The second area that is mentioned relevant to northern Ontario has to do with tourism: "Immediate initiatives will include additional funding for a northern Ontario tourism development program to take advantage of new business opportunities in the north." That commitment does not say anything to me. There have been innumerable initiatives with regard to tourism

promotion in northern Ontario, and to announce that this government is going to promote tourism in the north is nothing new whatsoever.

The third initiative has to do with Ontario Hydro: "To ensure responsiveness to northern needs, a northern advisory board for Ontario Hydro will be established. The board will be given a mandate to pursue policies that increase the corporation's contribution to northern social and economic development."

It sounds good, but I do not know what forming an advisory board for Ontario Hydro is going to do for northern Ontario. If anything, Ontario Hydro is moving out of the north and continues its emphasis on further development of nuclear power, with all its investment going into Darlington. There is no evidence that this government is going to take any action to stop that massive waste of investment and to redirect some of that investment into alternative energy sources, many of which might be able to be developed in the north.

Finally, with regard to education, there is only one other major initiative: "A high school of science and technology, located in northern Ontario and accessible to students from the region, will be established and linked to local research, college or university facilities. A major project in northern Ontario will be undertaken to expand the use of new technologies in delivering distance education to remote communities."

While southern Ontario continues to get the vast majority of university funding, the north is woefully underrepresented in terms of educational facilities, and a proposal from this government is to build a high school. In fact, even that high school, as I understand it, will be basically a grade 13 program only, a one-year program for several hundred students. It can hardly be considered a major initiative for northern Ontario in relation to the educational, training and research facilities that are desperately needed in the north—facilities that would be related to the industries already in the north and would encourage the further development of secondary industry related to the resource sector in northern Ontario.

I do not know what the government means when it talks about "delivering distance education to remote communities." Again, it is a very vague statement. The real problem here is, where is the focus on the real economy of northern Ontario and the real problems of the north? There is no recognition in the throne speech of the major industries in northern Ontario. There is no reference whatsoever to the resource sector.

There is no mention of forestry, the lumber industry, the paper industry, other related wood products industries or of the need for encouraging new technologies and the development of secondary manufacturing in that sector.

There is no mention of mining anywhere in this major address, the throne speech. There is no reference to the need to insist on mineral processing here in Ontario in a case such as Falconbridge. There is no mention of the need to encourage resource machinery to be produced here in the province. We could be producing mining machinery and forest machinery in secondary industry in the north that could be used in northern Ontario, instead of importing something like 90 per cent of the machinery we use in northern Ontario.

There is no mention of the steel industry, which is so important to Sault Ste. Marie, an industry that is in serious crisis in my home community right now. There is no mention whatsoever of the very serious problem of single-industry communities or of the fact that almost every community in northern Ontario is dependent on one major industry. When the lifeblood of an individual community severely reduces its work force or when a decision is made to shut down, with the decision generally made in southern Ontario or the United States, the community is completely vulnerable. We are seeing today in northern Ontario a lot of the effects of those kinds of decisions. There is a complete lack of recognition of the reality of northern Ontario. Instead, the throne speech focused on the glorious, pie-in-the-sky 21st century that this government envisions as the Ontario of tomorrow.

In the light of the emergency debate we held in the Legislature last week, I hope this government will take a closer look at the concerns of northern Ontario and particularly at the case of my home community. I am pleased that the debate went forward and that the standing committee on resources development is looking at the situation facing Algoma Steel and the communities of Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. I hope it will deal very seriously with the concerns of my community and the related concerns of other communities in northern Ontario about the consequence of actions that are being taken today by a major corporation.

This is of vital importance to northern Ontario. These actions were not recognized in the throne speech. I hope they will come forward in the budget we will hear one week from today. I hope there will be some major initiatives to help

stimulate the economy in northern Ontario. The unemployment rate in the north is increasing in marked contrast to the situation in southern Ontario where, from all indications, the economy is continuing to expand, and even in the area of the types of people who are unemployed. In southern Ontario, most government programs continue to be focused on youth from the ages of 18 to 24. In the north we need programs that are focused on older workers, workers at all stages of their careers and their work lives.

Today at Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie, before the company institutes its planned down-sizing with the loss of 1,500 permanent jobs, to hold a labour position at the steel mill one requires more than 17 years of seniority at that mill. Workers with up to 17 years are out of work today, and that will increase in the months to come.

Last week, the tube mill announced that later this month it is going to shut down completely at the steel mill. That program is separate from the major announcement of the 1,500 permanent jobs that are to be lost. That mill was operating at 20 turns per week, which means 20 eight-hour shifts of operation out of the 21 possible as late as last December. By March, it had dropped to five turns per week of operation because of the drastic reduction in world oil prices and the suspension of orders for casings for oil well drilling. That mill is down to five turns and will be shutting down for an indefinite period of time within the next month. Basically, every union employee in that mill will be put out of work.

5:30 p.m.

The tube mill has a separate union from the major United Steelworkers union at Algoma Steel because it is a remnant of the German company that used to operate the tube mill. That work force had as many as 800 workers operating at 20 turns per week last December. It is now down to about 350 workers. By the end of this month, all those workers will be out of a job on an indefinite basis.

This means that workers who go back to the startup of that mill 29 years ago, in 1957, will be laid off and they do not know for how long. They have no rights to jobs in other parts of the steel mill because, as I said, that is a separate operation. This is an example of the serious unemployment problems we are facing when workers who cover the complete spectrum of seniority and age are being put out of work in such a major industry.

I have serious concerns about Sault Ste. Marie, and the people of Sault Ste. Marie are

seriously concerned about the long-term viability of Algoma Steel and the actions being taken by Canadian Pacific in the down-sizing program it announced in the last month.

The company continues to maintain five major product lines. In a down-sized operation, it may have greater difficulty in maintaining competitiveness and its force as a competitor in each of those markets. In comparison, Dofasco, for example, serves only one of those five major product lines and is able to concentrate much more specifically on the one area it can be very good at, which is sheet and strip.

As well as producing sheet and strip, Algoma is also a major producer of plate, seamless tubes, rails and heavy structurals. There is a serious question of losing the efficiency in its scale of operation from its down-sizing program. A lot of people in Sault Ste. Marie are concerned about the future of the company. They do not want to see the company turn into the Sysco of Ontario.

A major component of its down-sizing is the elimination of ingot production at the mill. Ingot production accounted for about one third of the output in 1985. The shutdown of ingot production will mean massive mill shutdowns and the permanent dislocation of jobs from the mill. These will include the shutting down of the soaking pits, of the 45-inch mill, the 46-inch mill and the 25-inch mill, the ingot mould foundry, the mould yard, the ingot pouring in the number two basic oxygen steel plant and the stripper building.

Significant numbers of people in each of those facilities will be dislocated based on seniority. They may be able to hang on to some jobs, but the result will be the loss of more than 1,000 permanent jobs in Sault Ste. Marie. The loss of 1,500 jobs is the total loss between Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. There have to be major concerns in Wawa about what may happen there, particularly if the company decides to take action that would mean the eventual phasing out of the Wawa iron ore operation.

The impact of the steel plant job losses on Sault Ste. Marie can be recognized by looking at what has happened in the past six months since the steel plant lost somewhere between 700 and 1,000 jobs because of market reasons. This was predominantly because of the tube mill situation. If one looks at the data, the number of unemployed who were registered at the local unemployment office in Sault Ste. Marie back in October was 5,216. By mid-April, the number of unemployed in Sault Ste. Marie had increased to 8,020 workers. This means the number of

individuals collecting unemployment insurance in Sault Ste. Marie and environs had increased by 2,800 during a six-month period. That is the spinoff of the reduction of 700 to 1,000 jobs at Algoma Steel for market reasons.

All of this is before we get the complete shutdown of the tube mill, which means another 350 jobs, and before the permanent shutdown of major facilities, which will result in the loss of another 1,500 jobs. I hope that the tube mill situation will be an interim one based on market conditions and that we can get some of this operation back, but the multiplier effect on the 1,500 jobs is likely as well to result in a total increase of at least 4,000 or 5,000 unemployed in the Sault area. The unemployment rate in the area today is a little more than 20 per cent; it could well go up to close to 30 per cent by the middle of 1987 under the current scenario.

In terms of impact on the community, there has to be concern both for small businesses and small operations that are supplying Algoma Steel with products they use in their process and, more serious perhaps, for consumer spending. With the withdrawal of just the 1,500 permanent jobs, we are looking at the loss of \$40 million to \$50 million in wages that would have been paid in the Sault Ste. Marie area. That means a direct loss of consumer spending in Sault Ste. Marie, and that business will be taken away from the small businesses that are dependent on Algoma Steel for providing the consumers who can buy their products.

Obviously, there is going to be difficulty in attracting new businesses to the Sault. There are going to be growing demands on social services. There is a serious concern about a decline in the population, something that has not been seen in Sault Ste. Marie to this point. While some communities in the north have seen declining populations, the Sault has had a stable population. Since at least 1960 there was a steady, gradual increase in population up to the peak years of the steel mill in the early 1980s. From 1979 until the start of 1982 were very good years, during which 12,000 to 13,000 workers were employed by Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. There were about 12,000 in Sault Ste. Marie.

Since that time, the population has remained relatively stable. There has not been a major outflow of population to this point, probably because there have not been sufficient job opportunities in southern Ontario until very recently and because some of the young people who had gone out to Alberta and British

Columbia ended up moving back to the Sault in the past several years when the jobs dried up out there as well. That is a problem we still have to face.

What is going on in the Sault at Algoma Steel also impacts Wawa very definitely, because there is the potential that the iron ore mine there could be shut down. This would have disastrous consequences for the community, where most of the employment is dependent on the Algoma Ore division.

5:40 p.m.

Related to that is the question of the Algoma Central Railway. The Algoma Central is a relatively small railway that not a lot of people know about. It runs between Sault Ste. Marie and Hearst. It is very dependent on the iron ore it carries for Algoma Steel, which accounts for approximately two thirds of the freight carried by the railway. If it were to lose that freight, it would lose the base of its operation and would have a very difficult time surviving.

The head of the rail division of Algoma Central Railway stated that he believes the railway could not continue as a viable financial entity without the ongoing tonnage of sinter from Wawa. That would impact some 400 people in Sault Ste. Marie who work for Algoma Central Railway as well as a number of the communities along the line between Sault Ste. Marie and Hearst in terms of availability of rail transport. A number of forest operations along that line, particularly lumber mills, would lose their capability for lowest-possible transportation costs.

The number one attraction for Sault Ste. Marie is tourism, which many proclaim to be the saviour of northern Ontario. Although I do not believe it is the saviour, it is an important part of the northern economy and can continue to be a growing part.

Undoubtedly, the Agawa tour train would be shut down if the ACR had to shut down its freight operation. The tour train attracts approximately 100,000 visitors a year to Sault Ste. Marie. During the peak late summer and fall seasons, it carries more than 1,000 passengers a day, almost all of whom are from the United States. That is a major portion of our tourist business which we would not be able to attract to the Sault. It is estimated that attraction alone accounts for approximately \$40 million in tourist spending in Sault Ste. Marie as a result of those 100,000 visitors to the area every year.

One of the concerns shared by all from northern Ontario is the role of the multinational

corporations, the corporate centres either on Bay Street in downtown Toronto or on Wall Street in New York. In many cases, the decisions that affect the workers and communities in northern Ontario are not being made there. As well as Algoma, we have the most recent example of Kimberly-Clark making a decision somewhere in Georgia about whether it should continue to operate its mill in Terrace Bay. A decision is being made about the shutdown of the wafer-board plant at Great Lakes Forest Products, a company controlled by Canadian Pacific Enterprises.

A decision is being made by Canadian Pacific on Algoma Steel in my area. There has to be very strong concern about the role Canadian Pacific plays in having the controlling interest of that corporation, the lack of local input on where the corporation is going, and whether other actions could be taken to preserve more of the local jobs by keeping many of these facilities in operation that are planned to be shut down.

There certainly is a case of misuse of one of Algoma Steel's major holdings, the shares of AMCA International Ltd. AMCA International is the successor of Dominion Bridge, and Algoma Steel owns 34 per cent of the shares of AMCA International, an ownership that has no benefit to Algoma Steel. There is no synergy in terms of interconnection of operation between AMCA and Algoma Steel. AMCA stopped paying dividends in 1985, so there are no revenues coming in from that ownership.

The only benefit of the ownership is that it is the major portion of Canadian Pacific's holding of AMCA shares and allows CP to control that major corporation. Canadian Pacific Enterprises separately holds 17 per cent of the shares of AMCA, which, together with the 34 per cent from Algoma, gives it 51 per cent control of AMCA.

AMCA is a very large conglomerate based in the United States, about twice the size of Algoma Steel. It has sales of about \$2 billion a year. Algoma has sales on the order of \$1 billion a year. In effect, Algoma has the paper that says it owns one third of a company twice its size, but it is getting no benefits for that ownership; in fact, it is paying dearly in terms of its profitability for that ownership, because the market value of that 34 per cent share of AMCA today is more than \$200 million.

That alone would be enough to eliminate one third of Algoma Steel's debt. At the interest rates being paid last year, the corporation could have saved approximately \$25 million in interest

expense and would have been in a profit-making position last year, because its net earnings for the year were only something under a \$4-million loss.

I certainly have serious questions about CP's involvement in Algoma Steel. I have serious questions about some of the decisions that have been made by Algoma Steel and about what CP is doing at Great Lakes Forest in Thunder Bay, and I have serious concerns about Kimberly-Clark in Terrace Bay and about what has happened to the Ear Falls mining operation.

These are just new examples of the same problem that we faced back in the late 1970s, when Inco underwent a similar major downsizing, which affected the Sudbury area so dramatically at that time.

I hope we will see something tangible from this government to address the problems of northern Ontario. We urgently need some action on the situation facing Sault Ste. Marie in the months to come. I am not looking for magic solutions, nor do I think the solution lies in waiting for each crisis to occur and then reacting after the fact. We need to introduce programs that will be ongoing and that will provide financial assistance to northern communities to help balance their economy and stimulate new economic development.

5:50 p.m.

We need more smaller secondary industry. We rely too much on the one large plant in a community. We need several smaller secondary industries that are more appropriately related to the products in the resource sector today and that would be used to put more value added into those products and produce some finished goods in the north instead of shipping so much of that raw material for final processing to southern Ontario in many cases or, perhaps in more cases, to the United States, where most of the jobs are.

We need programs that will encourage these types of activities in the north that will ensure investment is directed at northern Ontario, and that will show we have a government committed to implementing those programs. I hope that this government will seriously look at my concerns and that we will hear something more promising and more tangible in the budget to come.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I will start my comments in reply to the speech from the throne by making a few comments in response to my friend the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom). I share and understand a number of the concerns he raised about the north. He admitted that a great

number of those concerns were addressed in the speech from the throne itself.

While there are pockets of problems in this province—and the speech does not deny that—we have to address those pockets of problems. It looks as if the government is not ignoring the north at all when it speaks of primary industries, tourism, hydro and expanded education in the north. Those matters are not to be lost on the member for Sault Ste. Marie. I am sure he is aware of them.

I was curious when he said there was a lack of focus in the proposals of this government for high technology. What could be a greater focus than to state that our government will move immediately to achieve that goal and that in developing those areas, it will establish a Premier's council to steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation?

The high-level council will be chaired by the Premier. How could we have more focus than by having the Premier himself chair the council? As active participants, it will include several cabinet ministers and leaders of business, labour and post-secondary education. There is no doubt that there is interest and excitement in this government for some of the plans that will be available for this province in the future.

Unfortunately, after having heard the speech from the throne, I cannot help but be aware of the apparent results of high-tech activity having gone wrong. The errors that resulted at the reactor in the Soviet Union perhaps brought us down to earth to some extent to be aware that we should not be completely dependent on high technology by presuming that all our problems can be solved by more and more knowledge.

One can compare it to the growth of awareness of environmental concerns on a neighbourhood basis. I think of neighbourhoods in my own riding in Kitchener where we have a number of industries that are cheek by jowl with the homes that for half a century have housed the workers who worked in those industries. For half a century, that seemed like a great idea to those workers. Now that they have a little more awareness of some of the pollution problems that do and can occur, they are more concerned and they are reacting.

Despite the knowledge we are accumulating in this modern world, it seems to me that every time we take a step towards progress we have to contemplate the fact that there may well be some detriment down the road. It is hard to counter the argument for progress when you do not know what the detriment will be. For instance, it is

obvious that at the time of early nuclear testing in the 1940s and 1950s, we did not know the sort of reaction that apparently can occur. It is the downside, if you will, of all progress. We cannot make the argument for the downside because usually we do not know what the downside will be. We either have to stagnate or take that leap forward to the extent we can.

This morning I had the opportunity to be present when the Premier and officials from the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Co. Inc., as it is going to be called, were turning the sod for the new plant that is to be built in Cambridge. The officials from Toyota were there, on a very pretty site; it has a stream close by and a small wood. It is good farm land, and yet it is a site that is in close proximity to large residential areas. I do not mean close proximity in the way I was speaking a moment ago.

It is an exciting site to the people of my neighbourhood, in Kitchener and in Cambridge, because it opens so many possibilities for employment and for spinoff industries in the future. We do not know what the downsides will be, if there are downsides. We have to accept that it is good. It seems to be good for the people at Toyota and for ourselves, the people of Ontario, both those who will be benefiting from the Waterloo region and those who will be coming into our area from other regions for employment.

With each step that is taken, we have to take care to ensure that the damage to the environment is minimal. Those decisions have to be taken if we are to have progress.

We do not know where that company will lead us. We know we want it; we want to build its cars.

As well, we know that computer chips, to the tune of six or eight, are found in cars today. By 1994, the number will be more like 24 per car. The decisions about what those chips will involve and how they will go into those cars are perhaps not going to be made in the Waterloo region or even in Ontario. However, we are delighted that Toyota has chosen to come to our area to build cars. We live in faith that in the long run we shall benefit from the technology and the knowledge it will bring to the area. I suppose that is what was called "world-class competition" a number of times in the throne speech. We have them here; yet we must learn to compete with them.

6 p.m.

I am told the number of components in a silicon chip has doubled annually for the past 20

years. One has to stop and think for a moment what that means in geometric terms.

We have a changing society. We have to be aware of the changing roles of government, industry, labour and education, and of how we can take those resources and utilize them efficiently and effectively. Ontario tends to be the leader in Canada in research and development. It has been in the past and it is the intention of this government that it will continue to be in the future. It is our intention that this be encouraged.

Ontario is one of the great traders in the world. If Ontario were looked on as a separate jurisdiction, it would be the greatest per capita exporter in the world, perhaps with the exception of Holland, exporting more than \$6,500 per person, compared with about \$4,800 for Canada as a whole, \$2,000 for Japan and about \$1,200 for the United States.

We have to be aware of some of the trading issues besetting us. While discussions are going on with the US, this government has indicated consistently that it is interested in monitoring those discussions as closely as possible for the purpose of making certain that Ontario's best interests are looked after.

At the same time, this speech mentioned the need to look to the Pacific Rim and other parts of the world that are growing quickly, to establish contact with Tokyo, Seoul and China, to implement a graduate exchange program and to make certain all our eggs are not in one basket. I applaud the government vigorously for that.

The trading role of the province and of Canada as a whole in technology matters, however, is not one about which we have a great deal to be proud in so far as the past is concerned. The development of technology in this country has lagged behind that in the six other countries meeting in Tokyo at this time, perhaps because there has not been a defined goal to the extent that there has been in other countries, with government playing a role in that goal. By that, I refer to the cosier relationship between government and industry that seems to exist in Japan and to the use of the defence industry in the US as a tool that permits a great deal of tax money to be spent on technology, which has permitted research and development to outstrip that which exists in this country.

If we are going to be a world-class economy, we have to make some decisions about the extent to which we are prepared to put the muscle of government into the development of technology to make certain the province continues to move

ahead with low unemployment figures and high growth figures, some of which we have heard about in the press even since the throne speech. In doing this sort of thing, it is important that we not forget some of the problems that still exist at home. In my community—and I know the problem is at least as great in Toronto and perhaps greater—there is a crisis in affordable low-income housing. I am happy to see the Minister of Housing is taking steps to come to grips with that problem.

In the whole province, we have to accept that child care services are no longer a novelty but are an essential part of the needs of a family, with both parents working in so many families. I am delighted to hear the Minister of Community and Social Services is taking very positive steps not only to increase the number of day care facilities that are available but also to increase the profile of day care so that it is no longer a welfare issue but a public service issue.

Health care is a huge problem. It seems to be a problem that may have been created in part by technology outstripping itself. With the progress in new procedures, we instruct our health care assistants and our doctors to make certain that no stone is left unturned to find the cure for someone who is ill. If we have a loved one who is ill, we want that to happen. The result is that it takes out more and more of our budget. As the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) well knows, it now takes up to 31 per cent of our budget simply to facilitate the hospitals and the nursing homes to cope with our growing ageing population.

The solution to that problem will not be an easy one. I do not have the solution to that problem, and I do not know whether anybody has. It is perhaps not the fairest thing to leave it up to the doctor to make sure that every hospital has a computerized axial tomography scanner and that it is always used in every possible case where there might be some need, however slight, to use it. It is an extremely difficult moral question that we currently leave to the patient, the family and the doctor, and it is costing us more and more of our tax dollars.

These are some of the problems which we face in 1986 and which the government looked at carefully in putting together a very sensitive and thought-provoking speech. I suggest to the government that it take the big steps it needs to take and that it be brave, but that it always be careful, wherever possible, to count the costs. I know the Treasurer is responding as one might expect, but I do not mean just the present costs

that we can see; I mean the costs we are not yet aware of that might come upon us down the road.

6:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: If there are no questions or comments, the member for Wentworth is next.

[Applause]

Mr. Dean: I can see I am already in trouble because the Treasurer applauded me.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It was just in anticipation.

Mr. Dean: It makes me nervous.

I am pleased to continue representing the people of my riding, which I know you know is Wentworth, Mr. Speaker, but the others who are listening or watching—I hope there are one or two—may not know that. The riding includes the township of Glanbrook, the city of Stoney Creek and a piece of the city of Hamilton. They are all in the beautiful area known as Hamilton-Wentworth, which is not far from Brant, Lincoln, Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton and other good places.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The jewel in the crown.

Mr. Dean: Thank you. It could not have been put better by Rudyard Kipling himself.

This is the sixth year I have been privileged to take part in a throne speech debate. I welcome the opportunity to consider this speech from the throne in four principal areas: (1) care for the elderly, (2) the impact of economic change, (3) measures to counter drinking and driving and smoking in public places, (4) GO Transit, particularly as it affects Hamilton-Wentworth.

Under the topic of care for the elderly I regret to say, but it is truthful, that the speech contains nothing new. It has merely restated policies that had already been put in place by the government in the last session or that had been advocated by other parties. There is nothing wrong with retreading something if one does not have anything new to say. As in other areas, the throne speech does say a great deal about the future; for example, 10-year programs. I quote "the throne speech of the decade" from some source; I do not believe it is in the text of this one. This means we will not know what it is like and whether anything happened until the end of the decade.

On care for the elderly, as one member of our party's task force on the elderly and as our party's critic for senior citizens' affairs, I remind the members of the discussion paper our caucus has prepared and issued called *Care for the Elderly*. It was released about the middle of April and contains many forward-looking suggestions on which we expect a lot of public discussion. I

welcome the comments of any members of the House on that paper.

In the speech from the throne is the promise that the Minister without Portfolio responsible for seniors' affairs (Mr. Van Horne) will be releasing his white paper shortly. We have been anxiously awaiting this paper ever since last fall, when the minister told the media it was completed, was sitting on the desk of the Premier and would be released in a couple of weeks. On May 2, I raised a question in the House with the minister about the whereabouts of his report and elicited only that it is coming some time soon, having passed through all the necessary hurdles. We are left with the inescapable conclusion that either there was a great deal of resistance by his colleagues in the party and in cabinet or that the Premier just could not get around to dealing with it.

This throne speech is very deficient in not alluding to anything more definite with respect to this long-awaited paper on care for the elderly. We are told in the speech that the government will put greater emphasis on programs to allow seniors to live independently. That is a very nice promise, but we remember it also was announced two or three times last session when the government announced and reannounced its \$11-million home care program.

This speech should have contained more details on how such an emphasis is going to be shown in specific programs. For example, knowing the need for it, I can recount the story of a woman in her mid-senior years who lives independently and is proud to be able to do it. She is quite able to look after herself in the home. However, she needs access to somebody like a plumber, a painter or someone to perform minor repairs in her house without charging her the moon, which she has found to be the case. She cannot find anybody to do this kind of work for less than \$14 or \$15 an hour. That is a pretty steep cost for somebody on a limited income.

We know there are many local programs and many good Samaritans who will provide this kind of service for some people in our communities, but if the government is looking for an area to use a little of our good tax money to promote a lot of satisfaction and independence among our seniors, encouragement of volunteers and qualified, independent tradesmen would be a wonderful place to start. The speech from the throne seems to be so far up in the clouds and in the future that it tends to forget our seniors might happen to have a leaky faucet or a malfunctioning

switch today. Pie in the sky is not very nourishing.

In another section, the speech from the throne speaks of the government's intention to create what it terms "regional geriatric units" in selected community hospitals and a multidisciplinary department of geriatrics at an Ontario university. Those are excellent ideas. I can say that with conviction because they were suggested by our caucus in our discussion paper on care for the elderly, in which we specifically suggested that a department of geriatrics be established and generally stressed the need for health care that was targeted on the basis of professional geriatric studies. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then the Progressive Conservative Party in this Legislature should feel very flattered that the government has grown tired of borrowing the New Democratic Party's jaded policies and is now turning to use ours.

It is most apparent that the multidisciplinary department of geriatrics to which the speech refers could and should be located at McMaster University in Hamilton. Some of the five health science centres in Ontario, at Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston and Ottawa, have various programs in this field, although none has a full-fledged department.

At McMaster, the dean of health sciences, Dr. George Flight, has pointed out that the faculty of health sciences there has pioneered the development of the multidisciplinary approach to education, research and health services in a wide variety of disciplines. Its program on geriatrics was established in 1973, and it included the raising of about \$1 million from private donations to support research personnel.

In 1979, the university established an office on ageing to co-ordinate educational and research activities in gerontology. Last year this was expanded to become the office of gerontological studies. McMaster has established the first undergraduate degree program in gerontology in all of Canada and will be admitting its first students this fall. Furthermore, the faculty of health sciences at McMaster has also established the R. Samuel McLaughlin Centre for Gerontological Health Research, which took place in 1984. It has supported five researchers in medicine and nursing since that time.

Gerontology has been extended beyond the health sciences to become part of the curriculum in social work, sociology and anthropology. It would make a great deal of sense for the government to select McMaster, with its very modern and progressive medical school, to be the

centre for the proposed multidisciplinary department of geriatrics. I will be reminding the minister of the logic and very good economic sense to do this in order that we may have an effective new unit to help in the whole geriatric field.

6:20 p.m.

Still considering the needs of the elderly, I regret to note that the speech from the throne is strangely silent on the need for nursing homes, retirement homes and homes for the aged. All these institutions are struggling with numbers of residents for whom they are not well equipped. The government has been brooding over what to do about the provision of more nursing home beds since last summer.

Prior to the election of a year ago, our government had announced that it was ready to allocate 4,000 additional nursing home beds throughout Ontario, but this proposal was shelved by the present government. While it is still mulling over what to do about the whole continuum of care, it must stop dithering about providing for the immediate needs of many of our seniors who are inappropriately placed in acute and chronic care beds when the proper nursing accommodation would be much better.

Community care groups also suffer. While some fair words have been expressed by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for seniors' affairs and by the Minister of Community and Social Services during the past months, we see no follow-through on the indication that community groups will receive the funding they need to do their part in caring for the elderly.

A critical element is the assessment and placement co-ordination services that can determine what form of care is most suitable for a given person. Again, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will pardon me for referring to the Hamilton-Wentworth area, but it does happen to be a leader in many of these health and seniors' affairs. In the Hamilton-Wentworth area we have such a placement co-ordination service, which has been performing well for many years. If the government had only stopped looking 10 years ahead—although that is important—and noticed what was at its feet, we might have expected to see this successful program expanded to all parts of the province. The speech from the throne is deficient in not dealing with this matter.

All in all, while it is difficult to disagree with what we do find in this throne speech with respect to seniors, it is very important to point out that it is very skimpy. Only 10 sentences outline the government's proposals for seniors. It is remark-

able and disappointing that there is almost nothing new in the speech in this important area. Everything either has been announced by the government already or has been advocated by the opposition.

I would like to turn now to the subject of health promotion. The absence of much mention of this subject is noticeable. However, in this province and across Canada we need to do more than just combat disease and injury. We must actively promote those actions and practices that will keep us all as healthy as possible in body and mind. To that end, this government should heed what is being said in many quarters about the need to co-ordinate positive health research and to promote good health. I am aware that the Ministry of Health does have an office of health promotion. I believe its impact is in its infancy. It is a good start, but it probably needs more help and support.

A good proposal has been made to the Ministry of Health, but probably not in time to be included in this speech, for the establishment of a joint health promotion resource project. This has been put forth as a co-operative venture by the University of Waterloo and McMaster University and would emphasize the following areas: (1) the establishment of health promotion information services for access by key target groups who try to provide health care in the community, (2) the development of the project as a liaison tying together health promotion information needs with critically evaluated data fresh from the health care field and (3) the interpretation and communication of scientifically valid health promotion information to the target groups.

I feel strongly that such a project would be a real complement to the ministry's office of health promotion. It would help to contribute to the goal of developing effective health promotion in Ontario.

I would like to speak for a few moments on the impact of economic change. On page 5 of the speech from the throne we find the phrase "a world-class competitor." As many of my colleagues have mentioned, "world-class" seems to have become stuck in somebody's electronic typewriter, and it appears regularly throughout the speech. I do not know whether one can term it a world-class speech. I think probably not.

While we all recognize that we live in a new era where we face competition from around the world, in attempting to reach the state of being competitive on a world scale, we must not neglect or forget the people who have worked in our traditional industries for scores of years.

Over the past 10 years, we have had many examples of some of our more traditional industries running into trouble because of the need to compete on a larger scale than simply in Ontario or Canada.

An example from my own riding of Wentworth is Inglis, a manufacturer of electrical appliances. A little more than a year ago, the employees of Inglis, which had operated in Stoney Creek for more than 20 years, were advised that the company would phase out all manufacturing operations within three years. The reason given was that plants owned and operated by the company in other parts of Ontario were in a more productive and therefore more competitive position to meet the challenge of manufacturing on a continent-wide basis.

Although some employees of that firm have been able to transfer to the company's other plants, they are a very small fraction of the total. It has been a devastating experience for many families. What do people do when their job suddenly disappears if they have been with a company for many years, are now perhaps aged 50 or 55 and have invested a great deal of their time and that of their families in their home community? Even if there is another job to go to some distance away, it requires a lot of soul-searching to pull up stakes and go to that new job, leaving behind one's friends and the community.

Now, more than a year later, some employees have been laid off permanently. Others who thought they were laid off permanently have been called back for additional work at the Stoney Creek plant. Company officials now say it is hard to give a firm date for final closure. The acting plant chairman of the union has said: "It makes it very difficult because you feel like you are locked in now. You do not want to give up your severance pay and other benefits and you cannot make any future plans." Another long-term employee says: "I will be 63 years of age in May. I will never get another job. There are a lot of us like that." Early retirement would give him a pension of \$170 per month, which is hardly lavish these days.

After many meetings with the employees and the head of the local council, as well as the employer, I met with our then Premier a year ago, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller). He undertook to commit the then Ministry of Industry and Trade to do everything possible to find a replacement industry for the Inglis plant as soon as the company was sure it was closing and the site was available. The present Ministry of

Industry, Trade and Technology can still help in the same way. The government must do what it can, even though I know government cannot do everything.

The speech from the throne has nothing to say about this type of catastrophe for some of our friends and neighbours. What will the government do to help people and industries caught in changing markets and increased competition from newly industrialized countries? Surely the present government cannot go on ignoring this

real human problem even though it talks of world-class competition.

Mr. Speaker, that is the end of all but three or four sections of my speech. Is this an appropriate time to move the adjournment of the debate?

Mr. Speaker: It is.

On motion by Mr. Dean, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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No. 10

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, May 7, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 7, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

TOYOTA PLANT

Mr. Barlow: It gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of this assembly the outstanding example of corporate citizenship displayed by Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. at its official ground-breaking ceremony held in Cambridge yesterday.

Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corp., and Eiji Toyoda, chairman of the board, invited officials of the city of Cambridge, the regional municipality of Waterloo, the government of Ontario and the government of Canada to join them in turning the first shovels of soil to inaugurate the building of a \$400-million assembly plant and to receive Toyota's gift to the city of a \$600,000 donation towards the establishment of a local museum.

This is most welcome news for Cambridge residents who have for the past several years been working towards enhancing and preserving their historical and heritage culture. It is with a great sense of pride as the member for Cambridge that I welcome Toyota to our fine city. I thank them for their generosity. We look forward to their participation in our community and to the untold employment opportunities they bring with them. We are excited about the effects that will undoubtedly filter into our economy and allow small businesses to flourish, and we hope all Ontarians will one day benefit from our good fortune.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Foulds: The economy of northern Ontario has been besieged these past months by massive layoffs and plant closures. Northern Ontario has been victimized by corporate giants such as Great Lakes Forest Products, Kimberly-Clark, Inco, Algoma Steel, Canadian Pacific and now the government of Ontario itself.

In his deal to sell off the Urban Transportation Development Corp., the Premier (Mr. Peterson), by his statements and especially by the prolonged

negotiations with Lavalin, has prevented UTDC from signing contracts. Thus, the government has failed its workers in Kingston and Thunder Bay. It has also failed to ensure the continuance of made-in-Ontario, world-class technologies for which UTDC is world renowned.

Tomorrow, in the standing committee on public accounts, the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) and I will introduce a motion that the committee re-examine the UTDC sale process in the light of the conclusion of the Office of the Provincial Auditor that the Wood Gundy valuation of UTDC was overly conservative and overly pessimistic.

The Premier must face the fact that the private sector is interested in public enterprises only if it can get them at rock-bottom, fire-sale prices. The government must abandon its misplaced zeal to give away UTDC for crass political reasons and must retain full public ownership and control of the UTDC.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Andrewes: I wish to draw to the attention of all honourable members a matter of some significance to the current discussions between the Ontario Medical Association and the government through the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

Members will recall that during the committee hearings on Bill 94, the OMA offered to prohibit extra billing for emergency services, senior citizens and those people who are receiving social assistance. Although the Liberal and New Democratic Party members scoffed at this proposal, I want members to understand that this prohibition would extend to approximately 50 per cent of the services that are currently rendered by doctors in Ontario.

It has been suggested by government that the OMA proposal was nothing new. The significance of this proposal in going halfway to resolving the extra billing issue deserves acknowledgement and response. Our concern remains that this government is not negotiating in good faith.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Wildman: I would like to quote from a presentation made by Stanley Black, the vice-

president of the Algoma Central Railway, in his presentation to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) in Sault Ste. Marie yesterday:

"It is readily evident that the outlook for the communities of Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and Hawk Junction is bleak. The combination of the Algoma Ore division reducing or discontinuing operations and the cessation of the ACR passenger excursions could have a disastrous effect on the entire region. Shutting down AOD operations would destroy the town of Wawa and impair Hawk Junction. Discontinuing ACR tour trains would destroy the hospitality industry throughout the entire region. Operating AOD at its maximum capacity would provide the lowest-cost opportunity for delivering sinter to Sault Ste. Marie. Upgrading passenger cars in Sault Ste. Marie would create employment opportunities and provide equipment for the continuing of the excursion trains."

It is not only New Democrats and other politicians but also leading members of the community and industry who recognize the potential disaster that is facing Algoma district because of the announcement of the Algoma Steel Corp. on down-sizing its operations. This would have a widespread effect, and it is important that the government respond to ensure that adequate provision is made for employment development in the district.

JANUS AWARD

Mr. Brandt: In keeping with the very orderly demonstrations that are happening on the front lawn at Queen's Park, I have a rather unique and first-time award to present today. The award is presented by the Lambton County Medical Society, which has created the Janus Award and selected the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to be its first recipient.

The Janus Award is to be presented annually to the politician who, by his own individual effort, has made the most significant impact on the health care system of Ontario, either for its benefit or to its detriment. The award is named quite appropriately after the Roman deity Janus, who quite appropriately had two faces, as does this plaque.

Unlike most awards that are presented in recognition of deeds already accomplished, this unique award is given in advance, while its recipient still has the option of making his contribution advance or retard the health care system. History will judge which side of this

plaque is applicable in the case of the Minister of Health.

Side one says, "Presented by the Lambton County Medical Society to the Honourable Murray Elston in recognition of his tireless efforts in promoting Bill 94, which has contributed more than any other single factor to the demise of the current excellent health care system of Ontario."

Side two says, "Presented by the Lambton County Medical Society to the Honourable Murray Elston who, by his withdrawal of support of Bill 94 in the face of overwhelming political pressure, has given a new lease on life to the health care system of Ontario."

PAPER MILL

Mr. Pouliot: The present crisis at Kimberly-Clark threatens the jobs of 2,000 people in my riding and puts into jeopardy the economic survival of the towns of Terrace Bay, Nakina and Longlac. The situation presents a serious challenge for the government. It reminds us of the frailties associated with survival in the north and the difficulties in our attempt to survive and compete in 1986.

What must be recognized by the government is that it is becoming very difficult to survive without incentives, proper planning and programming. We are no longer the only kids on the block. As we strive to survive, electricity rates in northern Ontario are 40 per cent higher than they are in northern Manitoba and between 25 per cent and 30 per cent higher than in Quebec.

The government needs to realize that we have an overcapacity in the north and that we must use the resources of Ontario Hydro to attract and retain people and industries in our part of the province. We do not need the recycling of an outmoded, old, rhetorical economic theory that belonged to 1930. We must eliminate sales tax on the goods produced and manufactured in the north and become innovative and imaginative.

SOVIET REACTOR

Mr. Shymko: Tonight on the steps of the Legislative Building, Canadians of all backgrounds will pay tribute to the countless and nameless victims of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion in the Ukraine. I invite all honourable members to attend and address this meeting.

Notwithstanding the solemnity of this tragic event, the rally will demonstrate our citizens' condemnation of a regime which for 36 hours exposed some 50,000 citizens to such doses of

radiation that today they have a mere 50 per cent chance of survival.

2:11 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

CENSUS OF ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE

Hon. Ms. Caplan: In the speech from the throne, the government set out its intention to act immediately to broaden the opportunity for all Ontario residents to share in the future growth and progress of this province.

As a major employer, with more than 80,000 public servants, the government is committed to equal employment opportunity for all groups in the Ontario public service. I am pleased to announce therefore that the government, consistent with its commitment to equal employment opportunity for all, will undertake a census of the 80,000 employees within the Ontario public service. This government-wide census will be conducted through the Human Resources Secretariat and will provide comprehensive information on the relative levels of representation of men and women, native people, racial minorities, francophones and persons with disabilities within our public service.

The employment census has been prepared with the assistance of a steering committee whose membership includes representatives from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the secretariat for disabled persons, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the cabinet committee on race relations. Advice on the census was also provided by representatives of many community organizations.

I am inviting each member of the Ontario public service to participate in this census and assist us by completing a voluntary and confidential questionnaire. On June 18, every employee of our ministries and schedule 1 agencies will receive a census kit, which will include a letter of endorsement from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the questionnaire and a confidential return envelope.

The theme of the census is "I Count for Equality in Employment." I believe that phrase effectively expresses the philosophy and objective of this government. The "I Count" census is the first government-wide survey to be conducted in Ontario and will provide us with a strong statistical basis for effective human resource planning, both now and in the future. Similar surveys have been conducted in other jurisdic-

tions, including the federal civil service, the city of Toronto, the United States and Britain.

I wish to emphasize that this employment census is entirely voluntary and is strictly confidential. Every effort has been made to ensure that the census and the use of the information which will be collected conforms with the requirements of the Human Rights Code and the freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation which is currently before this House.

The individual questionnaires will be destroyed within three months. Further, information on individuals will not be given out except to that individual. However, an employee can request that his or her own information be deleted from the data bank.

In conclusion, I invite each member of our public service to participate. I look forward to their valuable assistance and co-operation. I will be pleased to report back to the members on the progress of this important initiative.

Mr. McCague: We welcome the statement from the Chairman of Management Board today. The statement says a survey will be conducted. Even though the statement says at the beginning that they will act immediately to broaden opportunity for all Ontario residents, "immediately" is a little strong, even though it said so in the speech from the throne, because it is going to take some time to conduct this survey, which I endorse.

I would ask the minister if she would consider giving to the members of this House a copy of that survey a day or so after it is released to the civil service.

Mr. Philip: New Democrats have argued for many years for equal employment opportunities for all. Thus, we greet with approval the statement by the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) that a study will be done to find out just how much inequality exists.

The fact that the database study is now being conducted is an abominable condemnation of the previous government and of the present government, which has taken so long to find out the kind of research that is needed to take any kind of action.

While the minister talks about equality for all—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. I am sorry to interrupt, but I am sure he will have a chance to continue tomorrow.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am pleased to inform the House today that the government is moving on

two important fronts to provide fairer treatment of disabled people in sheltered workshops and other rehabilitation settings that are connected with work. One initiative concerns greater equity with regard to pay; the other concerns legal protection with regard to occupational health and safety.

First, the pay question. As honourable members may know, section 24 of the Employment Standards Act sets out a procedure for authorizing the payment to employed handicapped people of wages that are below the minimum wage. It is the view of the government that this section, which has been in force since 1947, is arbitrary and unfair and may well violate Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The government will therefore introduce an amendment to the Employment Standards Act to repeal section 24. This will entitle handicapped persons who are in a true employment relationship to be paid the minimum wage, regardless of whether they work in a sheltered workshop or elsewhere.

I would point out that not all participants in sheltered workshops are in a true employment relationship. Some, for example, are in training and assessment programs. I understand the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) will soon be announcing a clarification of the types of assistance available to participants in sheltered workshops and the roles of these workshops. The repeal of section 24, however, will entitle those who are in a true employment relationship to at least the minimum wage.

I would like to address the question of legal protection of the occupational health and safety of disabled people who participate in work or rehabilitation programs. As honourable members may know, the section of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in this area excludes from the protection of the act those who participate in work or rehabilitation programs in psychiatric institutions, mental health centres or rehabilitation facilities. It is the government's judgement that this is unfair and may be contrary to the letter and spirit of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Therefore, the government will table an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to repeal the offending section. As a result, disabled persons in these programs will enjoy the same protections as all workers under the act.

Mr. Mackenzie: I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Labour and the government on moving on the equality provisions for disabled people in the province. It is a

move that is long overdue and one that we have been after for a long time. It is a move we could not get from the previous government.

It is important to add my comments and to thank my colleague the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) for her amendment. The minister does not need to move the amendment he mentioned on page 2. It has already been moved during the equality rights debate and passed. It would be wrong if I did not mention as well the efforts of the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped in this regard.

There are two points I want to leave with the minister. First, I want to encourage him to use as generous an interpretation as he can of the legislation. Otherwise, there is a grave danger that large numbers of disabled people might get caught in the training and assessment procedures. The second thing that cannot be left unsaid at this time is that almost 85 per cent of the people who are disabled or handicapped in the province are still not employed. That is our real challenge in this province.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have a second statement. I would like to refer briefly to an article that appeared in today's Toronto Star headed "Safety Inspectors Said Undermined by Labour Ministry." I will not take the time of the House to review the entire contents of the article except to say it makes two serious allegations against the ministry.

Allegation number one is that the ministry has undermined the recommendation of an inspector that a prosecution be launched against the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in respect of a fatality. Allegation number two is that the ministry, having issued orders in respect of this incident, attempted to hold mediation efforts with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications without the knowledge or participation of union representatives.

Both allegations are totally false. In essence, these assertions against the ministry, if believed, are tantamount to saying that responsible senior officials within the ministry are corrupt and that they are deliberately engaged in attempts to avoid the application of the laws of the province against those in a sister ministry who may have contravened them. I cannot think of allegations against public officials that are more damaging and, if true, more reprehensible.

Normally, to protect the integrity of the prosecution process, I would not make a definitive statement about prosecution proceed-

ings before informations are sworn and served on the accused. However, in this instance, having regard to the very serious misstatements contained in the article, I feel obliged to advise the House of the true facts.

A considerable amount of time has been spent on the question of prosecution by ministry officials. Several weeks ago, after a request for advice from the ministry's director of legal services, the crown law office recommended that prosecutions proceed. The delay in processing them has been occasioned only by the necessity to ensure that the officials to be charged are properly identified.

Before I leave the question of prosecution, I would observe that the reporter involved asked whether prosecutions would be launched and was told correctly by the director of the industrial health and safety branch that the matter was before the legal services branch of the ministry. I would note that this relevant fact was regrettably not included in the newspaper report.

Turning to the second allegation—namely, that the ministry was engaged in unilateral, improper mediation efforts without the knowledge of the trade union—I would advise the House that this is also totally incorrect. The ministry issued certain orders following its investigation of the incident. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications appealed these orders, as it is entitled to do under the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

In appeals, the Ministry of Labour attempts to resolve the disputed matters through mediation. In this case, both the employer and the appropriate worker representatives were notified of the intended mediation. Moreover, when the union's health and safety co-ordinator telephoned to indicate that he wished to be involved in the mediation meetings, he was invited to be present. Subsequently, the employer withdrew its appeals and consequently there was no further need for mediation. Therefore, it is quite incorrect to suggest that the mediation was either clandestine or carried out without the knowledge of the union.

Finally, this is a statement that I very much regret having to make. The ministry is not without its faults, nor is the occupational health and safety division of the ministry; however, when false allegations which suggest corruption are made, I have a duty and an obligation to correct the public record.

I have with me a memorandum from the deputy minister which I received this morning dealing with the chronology of events surround-

ing the prosecution issue. I am going to share this memorandum with my colleagues the occupational health and safety critics in the opposition parties on the understanding that they will treat it with confidence in order that the prosecution process will not be impaired or interfered with in any way.

Mr. Gillies: With regard to the latter statement made by the Minister of Labour, I will be interested in reviewing the documentation of the cases to which he has made reference. I will not be making further comment on the specifics of those cases until we see them. I think the minister's statement begs a number of questions in which members in this House would have some interest.

First, by the minister's own admission, the incidence of accidents and lost time in the work place has increased fairly dramatically in the last year. We have heard a number of responses from the minister with regard to this. I would say, perhaps uncharitably, that he has tried to dump this problem in the laps of the safety associations. He has made allegations about the operations of the Construction Safety Association and its effectiveness, and similarly about the safety officials working in the industrial area. This is not good enough. He made a statement in this House in November and in subsequent statements he has repeated that he has a new get-tough policy, that orders are not going to be reissued against work places and that he is going to launch some all-out war in these very critical questions of work-place safety.

Quite apart from the statements made by the minister, where is the action? Subsequent to November, he did reissue orders for a number of months and we have it documented in one company in Hamilton. He has in recent days, in the month of March, been approached by representatives of the safety inspectors themselves, who have said to him on the record that they lack the training to do the kinds of work he has directed them to do.

Mr. Keith Rothney, spokesman for Ontario's 200 occupational health and safety inspectors, said: "We do not have the training to recognize potential hazards. We often have no idea what type of protective equipment must be used against toxic chemicals." He told the minister that in March. I understand from Mr. Rothney that they have waited for some response as to what is going to be done to put some teeth into the kind of blanket statements the minister has been making, and still they wait.

Interjections

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: It is not worth the breath to respond. They put them there, and now that they are not doing their job they have nothing to say about it.

The official opposition will want to review the particulars of the cases the minister has brought forward. We will also want to review the particulars of his operation in this area. I want the minister to know that the members of the official opposition consider the increase in work-place accidents to be unacceptable. We also consider his response to date to be inadequate. It is not enough to look for a scapegoat; the responsibility is the minister's and his alone.

Mr. Martel: I want to respond to the Minister of Labour's second statement. I am sorry I cannot congratulate him. His own inspectors call 400 University Avenue the swamp—everything gets fed in and sinks below the surface in the quagmire down there. Back in December, I raised the particular case he has before us. I have the orders and the inquest proceedings, which point to the fact that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) violated the construction safety regulations under sections 35, 36 and 37.

The minister's inspector recommended that charges be laid. I have never heard of a pre-appeal hearing. God only knows what that monster is. A pre-appeal hearing is where one asks the inspector to come in and one tries to entice him to withdraw his recommendations for charges. This is a prime example of what happens in the ministry continually. The minister should have invited the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, the official body, to be with the inspector at that time. I spoke to OPSEU representatives twice today and they said they did not know they were invited.

The inquest supports that something was going to happen and that the act was violated. In a fatality where the Ministry of Transportation and Communications did not provide a lifejacket or a backup worker, and where a 61-year-old man—I think he was 61—fell into a culvert and drowned, without adequate equipment under the construction regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, I cannot understand why charges are not being laid. Once again, the legal branch of the ministry has suggested that charges not be laid.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The member is wrong.

Mr. Martel: I may be wrong, but we will find out when the minister gives an answer on yet

another fatality later today. His ministry will not enforce even in cases of the most hideous act of violence that occurs to workers in the work place, the loss of their lives. In this case, if the provisions of the act had been followed, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications would have had a lifejacket there for that man to wear; it would have had belts there for him to fasten to; it would have had a boat there to ensure that safety measures could be taken.

Once again, that all went down to the minister's office and it got sunk in the quagmire. It sank below the surface and it stayed there. It is only when people continue to raise these issues and embarrass this minister that something is going to be done to enforce the act. Unless there is a housecleaning down at 400 University Avenue, nothing is going to happen to protect the lives of the workers and their safety in this province.

PROVISION OF STATEMENTS

Mr. Harris: In regard to the three statements we heard today, I want to comment briefly on the process and say to the honourable government House leader that today was the first day that the best intentions, as settled among all three parties, towards providing statements at an early opportunity have come through. I want to congratulate him on that.

It has been 10, 11 or 12 days since this best-effort deal was struck, and we were beginning to lose faith in what was alluded to or construed as best efforts. I want to congratulate the government House leader on having the statements ready. I appreciate it; it means something to us.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Time has expired.

2:32 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Grossman: In view of the absence of the "former" Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), my question is of the Premier. On April 22, Mrs. Margaret Sheppard died, not in her room but in the hall of the Barrie hospital, simply because no room was available for her to die in dignity with her family at her side.

Given the Premier's professed concern for accessibility to the health care system, can he tell us when his government will be prepared to follow through on the year-and-a-half-old commitment to provide funding to build a new hospital in Barrie, so that this does not happen again?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very sorry. I am not familiar with the case the member raises, but I will ask for a report from the hospital and report back to him on any circumstances surrounding that.

As he knows, with respect to the second question, the minister is working on a capital program. I cannot give a specific date, but it will be announced in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. Grossman: The minister is not working on a capital program today. He is hiding from the rally out front while the member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) has the courage to go out and state his convictions before the people in front of this House.

I did not ask the Premier for a report on those circumstances. They were reported by the daughter of the deceased to my colleague the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe). Therefore, my question does not ask the Premier to tell us what happened. We know what happened.

The question is this: If he is as committed to accessibility as he alleges he is, why is it that on a commitment to provide enough beds and a new hospital for the people in Barrie, his minister has not replied to the district health council report of a year ago? The minister has not replied to a letter written by the board on February 24, and nothing has been done to ensure that more people do not die in the hall of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot speak right now to the specifics the member raises. I do know that some of the facts he raises are wrong, again. In fairness, when he raises people's names in this House, presumably to make a political point, he would want to make sure he is completely accurate about these things.

I remind him that the minister was not invited to the rally today. I want to correct the record so that the member does not continually spread misinformation about the facts that are going on in this province at the present time.

With respect to the particular situation, as I said, I am not sure of commitments the minister made.

Mr. Davis: The Premier was invited. Where was he?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member did not ask me; he asked about the minister, but he is not here. I will inquire about the specific facts and get back to the member.

Mr. Grossman: I wish to apologize to the "former" Minister of Health. The Premier is right; the "former" Minister of Health was not

invited to speak at the rally. However, we thought the Premier, having decided to duck out of the opportunity, might have nominated his Minister of Health, or perhaps the acting Minister of Health, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) or any member of cabinet, to have the decency to go out in front of the building and address the province's doctors. I apologize to the Minister of Health. I forgot he was a puppet.

My final supplementary to the Premier is this—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I can be very patient. There is a certain length of time for question period.

Mr. Grossman: In January, the Royal Vic Hospital in Barrie received a letter from the minister in response to its request about what had happened to the long-standing commitment to proceed with the hospital. It received a letter from the minister acknowledging to the board that he had been in Barrie in November. The board will be relieved to know that the Minister of Health also said it was doing a good job.

The board subsequently had to write another letter, and this time hand delivered it on May 6—just yesterday—because it believed that its previous letter might have been lost by the minister, who has totally ignored the request of the people in Barrie.

Given the huge budgetary surplus that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has, is the Premier going to commit to the people of Barrie that no more people need die in the halls instead of in the privacy of a private room?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I must say a couple of things by way of preamble. I do think the honourable member is somewhat loose in his casting about of blame and involving people's names in these kinds of discussions in the House. I regret very much the degree of personal venom that has come into his kind of discussion in this House on these issues.

Mr. Grossman: Be specific.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is dripping.

I will inquire into the circumstances of the hospital in Barrie. I will get a complete report. The minister will get back to the member. I do not know about letters the minister sent or letters that were hand delivered, but the member is certainly entitled to a full explanation. We will get back to him as soon as we can gather that information.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier does not know about that because he is busy spewing venom on

the doctors of this province, whom he does not have the courage to go out and talk to.

2:40 p.m.

JOB CREATION

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Treasurer. Given that by his own admission his government is in the fortunate position of having extensive millions of dollars because of windfalls and other fortunate circumstances, is he still firm in his contention, as he outlined recently, that he cannot follow through on his party's promise to implement a \$100-million job creation program because he does not have the money?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Next Tuesday at four o'clock in the afternoon, I intend to present a budget that will see the allocation of the resources of Ontario to a variety of programs. I do not think it would be appropriate for me to respond to a specific question of that nature this close to the time of the presentation of the budget.

I hope the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) and his colleagues are not suffering any misapprehension that resources that have accrued have not been reasonably committed to the expanding programs required by the community. My responsibility is to see that the programs established by the predecessor government and by this government are adequately funded and permitted to expand in step with the needs of the community.

I have been giving extensive thought to and consulting a good deal on the preparation of the budget. I would be glad if the Leader of the Opposition would listen to it next Tuesday. I am sure he will give me his views at that time.

Mr. Grossman: I will be sharing my views with the Treasurer at that time.

We understand the Treasurer cannot and would not announce programs today that will be contained in the budget next Tuesday; however, his party made a commitment during the election campaign to provide a \$100-million job creation program. Last month, the Treasurer indicated he could no longer afford that program. In fairness, it is reasonable for us to suggest, having read in the papers that he anticipates a lot—

Mr. Speaker: Or ask.

Mr. Grossman: It is reasonable for us to ask, in view of the fact that he has acknowledged he faces a serendipitous situation where he has extra money available, whether the Treasurer stands by his party's election commitment or whether

his contention of last week that he cannot afford to stand by that election commitment still stands.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As far as the job creation policies of this government are concerned, we have been fortunate indeed that the expanding economy has provided a substantial number of new jobs this year, to the point that the unemployment level in Ontario, while still unacceptably high, is substantially below seven per cent and better than in the rest of Canada. The rate of job creation has been higher here than in the rest of Canada.

While the Leader of the Opposition may say this is the result of the views of the federal government in budget creation, we can accept as much acclaim for our leadership in the months since we have taken office as anyone can. We are very pleased that our initiatives and those of the business and resource community of Ontario have been such that real growth is expanding. Unemployment is as low as it has been in a decade. Inflation is relatively low and dropping. Interest rates are not as low as I would like, but relatively low and dropping. The confidence of the business community in general is returning to this jurisdiction. We are very proud that this has been accomplished during the months of our administration.

Mr. Gordon: Not in the north.

Mr. Wildman: The Treasurer should go north of the French River once in a while.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: John Bulloch will laugh when he hears about and reads the Treasurer's last statement that the confidence of the business community is returning.

We understand that if unemployment had been up this year, it would have been the fault of the previous government.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: The Treasurer arrogantly suggests unemployment is down as a result of this government's six months in office.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Breaugh: Time for the daily cheap shot.

Mr. Grossman: The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) can defend his friends when he gets the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Foulds: You do not defend your colleagues, never mind your friends.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: They did not even respect you in the morning, did they?

Mr. Foulds: No one respects you in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Grossman: In his answer to the supplementary question, the Treasurer pointed out how many jobs have been created in this province in the past year. He also said he is not sure he can afford the promised \$100-million job creation program. Was his answer meant to indicate to this House that he stands by his contention that he cannot afford the promised \$100-million job creation program?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is our intention to fulfil the commitments made in the election campaign when we feel we can do so. It is important to realize that the changing requirements of the community have to be met by this government, just as our predecessors tried to do when they had the responsibility. We are looking at these changes. While we are aware of the buoyancy and stability of the economy, we are also aware that many communities and sectors in the economy are not sharing in that buoyancy.

It is the responsibility of myself and my colleagues to see that our programs relate to the commitments made on an electoral basis and to meet the needs of the economy as we see them at this time. I hope that when the member examines the budget of the province next Tuesday, he will agree that we have accomplished that and will see his way clear to give us his support.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Labour about his statement today. He has put us in a very difficult position because, having presented us with some information, he now says we cannot talk about it because it will endanger the prosecution process. He made a statement that was extremely argumentative and, if I may put it as charitably as possible, at considerable variance with the facts as we understand them to be.

I am going to put this statement to the minister. He said, "The delay in processing them"—meaning the charges—"has been occasioned only by the necessity to ensure that the officials to be charged are properly identified." How can the minister write that and stand in his place and say that when he knows perfectly well that Alan Brown was killed on September 6, 1985, and it was not until March 3, 1986, that an opinion was sought from the crown law officers with respect to this case? How can he say that when he knows the delay was caused by something else?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am going to try to follow my own rules in not talking about the specifics. In making that comment, I was alluding to the fact that since that time—looking at the statement it is safe to say that a positive recommendation was made and a positive decision reached in the month of March—the delay from then until this date, since the information has not been sworn, is as a result of identifying the proper people. I will be alluding to this in an answer to a question from my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). I am not happy, not necessarily with the result but with the length of time it takes in all these cases before a decision is reached.

Mr. Wildman: About a year.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: In some cases, it is that long. In this case, the matter has run for several months; I acknowledge that. Looking at the details of this case, it has been a fairly complex matter. A number of decisions had to be taken. The point is that these matters are carefully considered. My friend the leader of the third party, who is a lawyer, knows that legal people often reach differing conclusions based on the same evidence.

Mr. Rae: With great respect to the minister, that is complete and utter rubbish. This charge wandered around his ministry for seven months. People are killed in many parts of this province in traffic accidents and in many other circumstances, and in most cases families and others do not have to wait seven months for a decision to be made with respect to a prosecution. We all know that.

Why should people who are killed in industrial accidents receive a standard of justice that is so significantly different, that is lower and crummi-er, from the standard expected by most of us as citizens? There is no reason at all. When is he going to clear up that swamp in his ministry and deal with delays that take months and leave the survivors and their families out in the dark, not knowing what the hell is going on?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I see that my friend the leader of the third party has picked up the rhetoric of his seatmate to his left.

I repeat to the honourable member and to the members of the House that I have indicated very clearly to my officials that where charges will be laid in cases of fatalities, obviously the most extreme area, we are to proceed with those matters on an urgent and priority basis. This minister is no happier than is any member of the House when these matters are delayed and not

brought forward in a timely manner. I will be monitoring this very closely. I remind my friend that perhaps the road has been too long, but at the end of the road the fact is that a prosecution will be commenced.

Mr. Martel: I am sorry my rhetoric offends the minister. I cannot help it that his ministry is called a swamp; that is what his inspectors call it.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union contacted the Ministry of Labour on October 15, wanting to know why Bruce Gibbs, a former health and safety representative, was being invited and not the union that represents these people. They want to know, as I do, what a mediation process meeting was all about when discussing the possibility of prosecution. Can the minister tell me why his ministry ignored OPSEU in totality and what in God's name was the purpose of this silly mediation process when it was obvious charges should be laid?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My friend is confused about the mediation. The mediation never had anything to do with the prosecution; it had everything to do with the orders. I will have to doublecheck whether Mr. Gibbs was the former health and safety representative. He is a member of Local 443 of OPSEU. He was advised of the upcoming mediation after the appeal was launched, as I am sure my friend understands it is proper to do.

He got in touch with Mr. DeMatteo, who on October 10 advised the director of the industrial health and safety branch that he wished to be involved in the meeting. Since a meeting date had already been set, it had to be reset because Mr. DeMatteo was not available. At the end of the day, the ministry, at its choice, withdrew the appeal and of course that ended the matter. The orders completely stand.

PAPER MILL

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier with respect to the tremendously difficult circumstances facing northern Ontario today. I am sure he is aware that a total of 4,500 jobs in northern Ontario have been lost or threatened by various statements or announcements with respect to either actual decisions or decisions that threaten to be made. I remind the Premier that this is 1.3 per cent of the entire work force in northern Ontario and that this is in one month alone.

My question is specifically with respect to the Kimberly-Clark situation, which I am sure the Premier knows represents 1,000 jobs in the plant and 1,000 jobs in the woodland. I wonder whether the Premier has some sort of response to

the statement by the president of the company, who last week came to the communities in the north, some four or five weeks after he had made announcements in the United States, saying, "I cannot in good conscience pass along to the next generation of Kimberly-Clark management the Terrace Bay problems which all of us now face."

What is the Premier going to do to make sure that the Georgia-based president of this company, in making his decisions, does not simply make decisions that pass on to the next generation of northerners, to the next generation of residents in the north, the problems all of us now face?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The facts the honourable member brings to this House are accurate. It is not just this situation; there are others as well. At the moment there is no more troublesome problem for this government or indeed for this entire province. The minister has been there in the past couple of days. A number of deputies are there. We are aware of the ongoing discussions. I do not have anything specific to tell the member, but I can tell him this government will spare no efforts to keep the Terrace Bay Kimberly-Clark operation going. I cannot report on the resolution of that question today, but we are working on it.

Mr. Rae: Can the Premier tell us something specific the government is going to do for the people of Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Longlac, whose economic existence depends on the future of that plant? Literally tens of millions of dollars, many of them publicly subsidized dollars, have gone into the improvement of that operation. What specific steps is the Premier going to take to protect the investment of those workers and of Ontario in a healthy industry in the north?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I wish I could respond with a specific solution to the problem today. Unfortunately, I cannot. The problem is receiving the best efforts of this government, which is working on it. We are chatting with the union and the management. This government is not above using its powers to keep that plant open, but I cannot tell the member what the specific result will be.

Mr. Bernier: The Premier knew the answers a year ago.

Mr. Gillies: He had all the answers during the election and he has none of them now.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Would the members stop yapping.

Mr. Rae: In the light of the Premier's answer, surely chatting is not the answer. This is not a question of going around the north chatting with

people. This is a crisis that affects town after town. What specific plan is the Premier prepared to announce today? Or if not today, when is he prepared to announce a specific plan for capital investment in the north, for public encouragement of private investment in the north, that will protect the jobs in our basic industries? Otherwise, we will have two economies: in the north, an economy that is sliding downhill, and in the south, an economy that is strong. The Premier surely does not want to see two Ontarios in the province in 1986.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member is quite right. As the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) said today, in spite of a buoyant economy it is not buoyant in a number of areas of northern Ontario. We are very aware of those pressures.

Members have seen in the throne speech, as they will see in the near future, initiatives that are specifically addressed to broadening the economic base of northern Ontario. At the same time, our immediate priority is to try to keep those jobs in the existing mills.

Mr. Foulds: He did not even talk about the north; in the resource sector he talked about agriculture.

Mr. Gillies: We raised it two weeks ago, he has done nothing.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is easy to rail about these situations when in opposition. I understand it.

We are working on each of those specific problems in consultation with the various people involved. We are seeking a solution. I think those things are possible. That being said, we have a long-term job of broadening the economic base.

WATER QUALITY

Ms. Fish: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday the Toronto Board of Health received some very alarming allegations from Dr. Joseph Cummins, a very well known and respected geneticist at the University of Western Ontario. Specifically, Dr. Cummins alleges that cancer-causing polyaromatic hydrocarbons have been found in or near the drinking water of Metropolitan Toronto.

Can the minister tell this House what testing his ministry has done on the quality of the water that is taken by all the residents of Metropolitan Toronto and whether any such materials have been found as a result of those tests?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I have heard Dr. Cummins on a number of occasions in different locations in Ontario indicating his concerns,

which are probably genuine, about drinking water across the province. The member will know our ministry has been doing extensive testing across Ontario under our drinking water surveillance program, including the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. As soon as the results are forthcoming, we will reveal them. We will announce them, indicate what has been found and what the parameters are.

3 p.m.

Our latest testing indicates that no dioxin has been found in the drinking water of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. Because of other findings across Ontario, there was some concern that could happen in the specific case of Toronto. We have not found that.

The member will also know we are striving to improve drinking water quality at all times in this province through a number of methods. The first important thing is to establish a significant base from which to determine what the problems might be and then from that base to take abatement action. I have announced in the House many times a full—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

Ms. Fish: In my initial question I made specific reference to Dr. Cummins's very serious allegations. As the minister is aware, they were not allegations about the presence of dioxin but about the position of the hydrocarbons. He specifically noted them as being very serious agents causing cancer and possibly leading to diseases and disorders related to or similar to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, which is his area of concern.

Given the population that is here, given the fact that water is drawn from Lake Ontario, given the concerns about the numbers of materials—

Mr. Speaker: Given the fact that it is question period, please ask your question.

Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, you may be amused about the materials. I am not and I do not think Dr. Cummins is.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, please.

Ms. Fish: Will the minister indicate to this House the date and findings of the testing that has been done and what specific steps he is taking to ensure that the drinking water in Metropolitan Toronto is safe?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will undertake to read precisely what Dr. Cummins did say. I only heard a news report of what he had to say. I will certainly undertake to determine precisely the statement he did make and respond to that by indicating what our tests have been and what they

have revealed as compared to the information Dr. Cummins has revealed to us.

Having been Minister of the Environment for a period of time and having her predecessor sitting next to her, the member will know there is much need in this province to undertake the kind of activity that gets at the source of any of these problems, the kind of activity that would be involved in the development of a very tough water regulation.

If the member has followed this since she got back from her trip, for instance, she will have read the clippings indicating that the toxic rain that has been talked about can have an adverse impact not only on the soil but also on the water of Lake Ontario from which—

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I was not aware that the Conservative Party was as unconcerned about—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. Recognizing that there were already 46,000 people unemployed in northern Ontario as of February 1986, that in the northeast the average unemployment is 48 per cent higher and in the northwest it is 57 per cent higher than the provincial average and that there is great potential in the north for better utilization of resources and diversification of the economy which would benefit the whole province, can the minister indicate what he is doing to co-ordinate the approach of the various provincial ministries in response to the problems of towns like Wawa?

Specifically, is he preparing a rescue package for that community as suggested by the town council, and is he prepared to provide matching provincial funding for the community initiatives as part of the federal community futures program?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: When I was in Wawa last week, I discussed this problem with the town council. I decided that we will send an economist there to work with the town and its people to find new industry. I know the council was talking about a bigger potential for thermomechanical pulp or waferboard, and we are going to look into that. We are going to look at the other mining that is going around.

I ordered the northern Ontario resources transportation committee to be sure all the roads and the road connections are there to create this

circle with the small gold mine, going around this area plus Mishibishu Lake. I gave an order to give the money to that company if we can make an agreement with Algoma Central Railway to cross its land. On mining, there should be some co-operation there.

Second, I will direct my efforts toward Wawa. My deputy minister and other deputy ministers are there today to assess the situation and will report to me and to cabinet this week.

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the answer of the minister, but I want to point out to him that the town council is not there today. I am not sure with whom his deputies are meeting.

Can the minister indicate what steps he has taken to fully involve the Ministry of Natural Resources in this process to ensure it will allocate the timber, the birch and poplar, that is available for a TMP plant, and that funds will be made available for a gold processing mill as well as a tourism strategy and perhaps the development of better transportation facilities, such as the Michipicoten Harbour? What is he doing to ensure these specific programs are brought on stream, as well as meeting with the council to discuss them, as he has done?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First, I assure my friend that mine is the lead ministry among the five or six concerned with Wawa. I will make sure everything to help the town or the people is researched to see whether it is feasible to have a TMP plant there. Maybe it is not feasible.

This idea of TMP came from Hearst a couple of years ago and we chose Wawa because of the strategic area. Apparently, it was chosen for a pulp mill 25 years ago. The other people found that was not the place and they put it someplace else. I will meet the mayor on Friday night in Parry Sound and will discuss what we hear from the deputy minister tomorrow.

We will make an effort not only for Wawa but also for the Wawa area.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE TELEVISION SERVICE

Mr. Poirier: I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. I would like her to report on the status of TVOntario's French-language network, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Munro: This ministry strongly supports the implementation of the new French-language television programming network at TVOntario.

We are in constant dialogue not only with the federal officials but also through our own ministry and TVOntario. I hope we will see some concrete results in terms of signing the agreements this year so that the service will start in January 1987, but negotiations are still in progress.

Mr. Poirier: As a Franco-Ontarian, I am very interested in getting the answers and I thank the minister.

I would like the minister to report on the progress of the relationship with the federal government pertaining to TVOntario. There are rumours that there are problems or delays with the federal government and I want to know.

Hon. Ms. Munro: As the member may not be aware, the agreements were started as a result of initiatives by the previous government. We continued those negotiations and made an announcement with the present Minister of Communications, Mr. Masse, in September 1985, and we have continued to work on those negotiations, not only at the staff level but also on a personal level.

3:10 p.m.

It is true that the expectations of people who value their French language and culture are very high. This government, this ministry and also some of my colleague ministers, including the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) and the minister responsible for francophone affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre), as well as back-bench members, are working on impressing on the federal government that we need the necessary dollars and other resources to make this dream come true.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. Last October, when he announced a \$100-million development program for northern Ontario, the minister said he was going to set up nine development councils and these councils would be established by December 1985.

The municipalities in northern Ontario received a letter in April asking them to suggest names of people to be on these councils. Today's Sudbury Star says these councils could be established by June. Is the minister serious about northern development? In nine months, nothing has happened.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I do not know where my friend has been for nine months. Maybe he has

been sleeping. I did not say the councils would be established before Christmas; I had to follow the budget. I told the Municipal Advisory Committee the councils would be in place on March 31. I got my okay from Management Board about March, and I made a statement here.

Then I started the process of consultation. I could have named all those people myself, but I did not want to do that. I consulted on the appointments, which will be announced starting next week. Some will be announced each week until the end of May, when all the people will be in place.

Mr. Gordon: As the chairman of the northern caucus of our party, I take my responsibilities seriously when I talk about northern matters. We have heard in the House today that as many as 4,500 jobs are going to be lost across the north. We know 1,500 jobs are being lost in Sault Ste. Marie. We know that more than 3,000 people are on welfare in Sudbury, two thirds of them employable. We have a haemorrhage of jobs in northern Ontario, and the minister has done nothing for nine months. When is he going to start speaking for his constituents, the people of northern Ontario? How can he go back to the north?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I have made 68 trips to the north and I am still alive. Nobody has killed me yet, so I must be doing something right. Otherwise, I would not be here today. The only places I have not covered yet are Pickle Lake and Southern Lake, and I am going there this week or next week.

I am well received in every community because I am trying. This erosion of jobs did not start this year; it started in 1978. The Conservatives did nothing about it. They did not bring any new industry to the north after the war. They just waited to get our forestry money and did not bring any new industry to the north, except mining, sawmills and pulp mills.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Premier, who will be aware of the report of the Provincial Auditor on the Wood Gundy valuation of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. The Premier will also be aware that this report indicates the Wood Gundy valuation is "overly pessimistic and overly conservative." In view of this, has the Premier asked his chief negotiator with Lavalin to enhance the low-end bid scale to reflect the real value of UTDC, or, as he is quoted by the papers, is he still trying to "skin a cat" and

to "glue something together" by selling it off cheaply?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are trying to salvage everything we possibly can from the situation. I am aware of the report. As the member knows, bookkeeping is not a precise science. There are various interpretations of the book. We have the Wood Gundy report and we have had accountants and the Provincial Auditor looking at the situation. I welcome all those different views.

As the member knows, there are a number of things that are subject to different interpretations. Ultimately, a company is worth what one can get for it, as is anything else. We are in the position that we are trying to accomplish the following aims. We want to keep that company operating and growing. We want to cut any losses to the taxpayer; that is, to maximize every single return we possibly can. This is the intention of our discussions. Believe me, we are not in the position of wanting to give anything away.

The dilemma we are in is not unlike the one with Suncor where the previous government paid \$650 million for a company that is not worth that today. I am sure the member and the Provincial Auditor would probably agree. When one does a deal of this complexity, one takes the very best advice one can possibly find. We take it from a wide range of sources, one of which is the Provincial Auditor. We are very happy to have his advice, and the member's advice, on this matter.

Mr. Foulds: Given the government's spoken, if not acted upon, pledges to enhance high-tech development and to secure jobs in northern Ontario, why is the Premier acting like Canadian Pacific by withdrawing capital from northern Ontario and thus threatening jobs in both northern and southern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I want to be very fair because when the member asks me that question, the implications are that he does not understand what is going on.

Mr. Foulds: I do understand.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are not withdrawing capital. There is a commitment for that company to stay in Thunder Bay and other places. Part of the discussions are a recommitment of capital to bring up those plants to more productive levels. The member knows and I know the historic problems with Can-Car. He knows it will need an infusion of capital to make it more competitive. I am sure the member agrees with that. That is one of the things we are talking about. We are talking about doing that type of thing.

Mr. Foulds: You are saying that your shareholders cannot afford it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member has heard a lot of suggestions in the newspapers about the profitability of that company. There are other interpretations of that, as well as different views of the situation.

Everything we do will be open to public scrutiny. The member for one will look at it, as will anyone else. I have absolutely no hesitation about sharing the facts as they exist and getting the interpretation of the member and others. Please do not force me to be in a position where I have to say things that jeopardize the value of that company. We are trying to increase its value.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Labour has a response to a question previously asked by some member.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Wrye: On Monday, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) raised a number of questions regarding a fatality which occurred in September 1985 at Stanleigh mine in Elliot Lake. First, he asked why no charges had been laid under the act against the employer. I want to inform the member in the House that the case is under active review. A decision on this matter will be made very shortly. I add, in passing, that this matter has taken a long time and, in the judgement of the minister, too long.

The second question the member raised concerned a request by the United Steelworkers local to provide it with a copy of the ministry accident investigation report. I can confirm the union made such a request. The director of the mining health and safety branch exercised his discretion in not releasing the report. It is our judgement that release of the information at this time could prejudice a fair trial if any charges are laid in this matter.

Finally, the member suggested that the deceased individual, Mr. Perron, had reported a malfunctioning gate to his superior four times. Again, because the matter of prosecution is under active review, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on that allegation which has been part of the investigation into the fatality. Once a decision concerning prosecution has been formed, I will inform the member on that matter.

Mr. Martel: As he talked earlier about my rhetoric, maybe the minister will tell me why it took so long for that information to come out of the swamp. That is where it has been buried since this man's death in the early part of September.

What took the branch so long to come to the fore with this, if it is not a swamp?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I just want to share this with my friend and he can see it in the other matter. The recommendation to prosecute or not, which comes from the investigating officer or from an inspector, goes through a number of stages. I am willing to take a look to see whether we have too many. I rather suspect we do not.

However, in this case, a quite unacceptably long time went by before the matter was moved from one stage to the next. I want to facilitate these things, but we have to be very careful—because we are talking about prosecutions here—that investigation reports and findings are thoroughly and carefully reviewed by officials, especially in the case of fatalities.

I reiterate that we want to get on with the job as expeditiously as possible, and I give the member a commitment that we will look at speeding up the process.

LOW-ALCOHOL PRODUCTS

Mr. Turner: In response to a question on December 20, 1985, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations assured me he would take appropriate steps to ensure that low-alcohol beverage products such as Sarasoda would not be available to young schoolchildren. Will the minister please advise this House what steps he has taken to carry out this assurance?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Members will remember that the product in question has less than one per cent alcohol and is not covered under the Liquor Control Board of Ontario regulations. As a result of the concerns raised by the member, I contacted both the manufacturer and the LCBO, and we are trying to get voluntary compliance. There is no regulation that I can apply, because it does not come under the regulations.

Mr. Turner: I point out that there was a big advertisement in the Toronto Star in which the manufacturer took the responsibility of saying, "Sarasoda, the sparkling citrus cooler for adults." In view of that, what am I to tell parents such as Mrs. Reynolds, who lives in the Orchard Park-Eglinton area? Her 10-year-old son went to a Becker's store, bought a bottle innocently—not knowing what the content was—and brought it home. I understand this youngster is asthmatic and is on medication for the problem. He was unaware, as were his parents, of the consequences, if any, of mixing the alcohol, low as it is, with the medication. I ask—

Mr. Speaker: Order. With respect, I am sure the honourable member realizes very much how questions should be asked. I understand he asked the minister what he is supposed to tell the parents; so I am quite sure the minister is ready to answer that.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member quotes from a paper, and that is one of the responses the industry accepted, that it would put into all its publicity the caution that this was meant for adults.

I should also point out that I am concerned about the problem, but the member has to understand there are many beneficial aspects to this product. For those people who are driving, it is an extremely low-alcohol product and it serves a beneficial role in that area. It is something that is of concern, but it is not widespread, and we are addressing the problem.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. I understand the minister was in Sault Ste. Marie yesterday with his deputy minister and officials from several other ministries. I am surprised the minister does not have a statement to make with regard to the type of action the minister and his government intend to take in the Sault situation.

Can the minister let us know what happened in his meetings yesterday, what conclusions he has come to with regard to the problems facing Sault Ste. Marie and what action this government will be taking?

Mr. Gordon: Can the minister get his act together?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: My act is better than that member's, for sure. He will not be in Sudbury for very long.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a period for questions and responses. I ask all members to refrain from making interjections. If interjections are made, I hope all others will disregard them.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: In answer to my honourable friend from Sault Ste. Marie, first of all, my officials met with Algoma yesterday. I met with the town and with other people in the town.

Mr. Wildman: Did the minister meet with the union?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The union? We met with them last week. Today there will be other meetings in the area with the union and the company.

We are working on that together and there will be some announcements in time. I have to have those reports from the deputy minister, who was there, and I have to discuss this with the Premier (Mr. Peterson). I will report to the member shortly.

Mr. Morin-Strom: One of the concerns in the Sault has to be whether it is a city or whether it will be a town in the future, as the minister referred to it.

In the area of jobs, can the minister state that the policy he will be working towards will be the bringing of jobs to the north rather than the bringing of the people of the north to the south to find the jobs that are going down here? What is his intention? Is it to bring jobs to people or to bring the people down here to the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First of all, I am a married man. I have young kids in Hearst, and I want to show the member for Sault Ste. Marie that I want our children to stay in the north and to live there. Our policy from now on is that we will try to have an economic strategy and a tourist strategy to have those jobs in the north. We have waited 42 years for all those friends who were dead over there, and they never came to the north. Now we are going to have to have a new direction. We are going to do it together.

Yesterday I got a good agenda from the chamber of commerce, from the economic committee and from the town, and we are going to work at it together.

TAX BURDEN

Miss Stephenson: My question is for the Minister of Economics. Since this government today will enjoy the fruits of approximately \$3 billion of windfall revenue, primarily because of the sound fiscal management of the previous government, and since \$700 million of that is as a result of the pain of the tax bite he put on the citizens of the province last October, I wonder whether the Treasurer, with his magnanimity intact, might demonstrate that he is a generous man, remove his iniquitous gasoline tax and replace it with the ad valorem tax, which would immediately reduce the price of gasoline by about three cents a litre, to the benefit of all citizens of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member will recall that this matter was debated extensively in the previous session. She will also remember that there was some indication of an even greater increase, which the wisdom of the Legislature rolled back. I regretted that at the

time, because it reduced the revenues I had been planning on.

Even at that, Ontario taxes gasoline and other fuels at the lowest level of any taxing jurisdiction in Canada except Alberta. For that reason I think it is more appropriate, although we do not earmark the revenues, to be sure that our provincial roads and our various communication lines and transportation facilities are brought up to the mark after having been let go over a number of years, I suppose as an economy measure.

In this regard, I am not prepared to prejudge or even to indicate what the budget might hold next week, but if I were the honourable member, I would not hold my breath.

3:30 p.m.

Miss Stephenson: I am delighted to have that clinical recommendation from the Treasurer free. That is what it is worth as well.

The Treasurer will be aware, I am sure, that the size of his windfall this year has nothing to do with what this government has done. It is as a result of the growing economy in the United States, the growing Canadian economy, the sound foundation that was in place in this province and the increased employment that was predicted last June. The Treasurer decided last June that our figures might be wrong. He has now had to eat crow. Is that not a shame?

Mr. Speaker: Would the honourable member take a breath and ask a question, please.

Miss Stephenson: Thank you for that advice too, Mr. Speaker. I have now had it from both of you. I will take a breath.

If this Treasurer is not willing to demonstrate that he has at least one scintilla of generosity for the taxpayers of this province in the gasoline tax area, will he seriously consider rolling back this additional personal income tax bite, which is going to be very painful for the citizens of this province come January 1987 when they consider paying their income tax and find there has been a considerable increase in that which has been levied by Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I want to make it clear that while I indicated the policies of this government have been advantageous to the economy of the province, we by no means take all the credit. There has to be some left for Mr. Mulroney, who indicates he is the person who has done it all. Politicians spend a lot of time, or let us say even waste a lot of time, trying to get credit or to take credit away. If the member will not worry about it, I will not worry about it.

We are in the last stages of the arduous work of the preparation of the budget after extensive consultation geographically and with many interested groups, professional and otherwise. Labour unions, farmers and teachers—all of these people are interested in advising the government of the day where these dollars should be placed for the benefit of all. The member will simply have to contain herself until next Tuesday at 4 p.m.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: If I could have the attention of the members, I have taken particular note during this question period that only nine members' questions plus the leaders' questions were asked in the hour today. Yesterday, there were 17 questions in addition to the leaders' questions. I have also noted that many of the questions were repeated during the presentation. Sometimes there were two-, three- and four-part questions, with considerable editorial comment. Tomorrow I will start reminding all members that it is question period and one question should be put and one answer should be given.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. Harris: I have a couple of points of order, Mr. Speaker. They go along with the point that you have brought to our attention.

I accept what you have said to us. It is something which we on all sides have to pay attention to. I ask you to consider the case when questions are taken under advisement and answers are given. I refer you to the question of May 5 in Hansard, if you could check it at your leisure. The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) asked two pretty short, very pointed and good questions. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) took twice as much time as the member in answering and then at the end of it said, "I will take it under advisement and get back to you." We then had a four-page statement today. Either it is going to be taken under advisement and brought back as a short answer or the question is going to be answered, not both. I ask you to look at that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the member for his comments. I appreciate that in the standing orders it does say that if there is a lengthy response by a minister it should be done during ministerial statements. I will also look at the other matter to which you referred at the moment.

Mr. Harris: On another point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Which standing order would this be under?

ACCESS TO LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Mr. Harris: I am not sure whether it is standing order 10(3) or 13(4). There were several people at Queen's Park today. I would like to know who under this "no walls, no barriers" policy, and you will see the empty galleries here, instructed that the doctors were not to be allowed in the Legislature if they were wearing their doctor coats, which is what doctors wear. Can you let us know under whose authority that instruction was given?

Mr. Speaker: I had not received any request. Requests for demonstrators to come into the precincts of the House generally come to the Speaker's attention. I had no such request. However, I will review it.

Mr. Harris: It was not demonstrators; it was only two doctors who wanted to come in, and they were told they could not.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. I do not feel this is the time to debate this; however, I will review it.

PETITIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Polsinelli: I have a petition signed by 203 senior citizens. It was presented to me by the Federation of Italian-Canadian Seniors and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, wish to show our support for the government's proposed Health Care Accessibility Act. We believe that only with the complete ban of extra billing will there be universal access to first-class medical care in Ontario. It is clear that many people in Ontario have found it necessary to forgo essential needed medical care because of the added unmanageable expense of extra billing by physicians. It has been shown in reputable independent studies that extra billing by physicians is a hardship for senior citizens."

Mr. Cordiano: I have a petition on behalf of the Federation of Italian-Canadian Seniors. There are 229 signatures:

"We, the undersigned, wish to show our support for the government's proposed Health Care Accessibility Act. We believe that only with the complete ban of extra billing will there be universal access to first-class medical care in Ontario. It is clear that many people in Ontario have found it necessary to forgo essential needed medical care because of the added unmanageable expense of extra billing by physicians. It has

been shown in reputable independent studies that extra billing by physicians is a hardship for senior citizens."

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Reville from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills with certain amendments:

Bill 54, An Act to Authorize and Regulate the Payment by the Minister to Specified Persons on Behalf of Specified Classes of Persons for the Dispensing of Specified Drugs, and Bill 55, An Act to provide for the Protection of the Public in respect of the Cost of Certain Prescription Drugs.

Mr. Treleaven: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is a motion on the floor.

Mr. Treleaven: That is correct. I have a point of order on the motion.

Mr. Speaker: When I place the motion, you can stand.

Shall the report be received and adopted?

Mr. Treleaven: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: New standing order 66(b)—59(b) under the old standing orders—says: "When a bill has been amended in any committee"—and Bill 54 has been—"it shall be reprinted as the Clerk of the House directs, amendments being indicated, and shall not be further proceeded with until it has been reprinted and marked REPRINTED on the Orders and Notices paper."

It has not so been ordered reprinted on the Orders and Notices paper. Moreover, it certainly is being proceeded with. This is under routine proceedings under new standing order 26. It cannot be proceeded with today in the House.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: Surely the member realizes that the bill is simply being reported out of the committee to the House and that it will not be proceeded with in the committee of the whole House until it has been reprinted and placed on the Orders and Notices paper. I do not know what could be plainer than that.

Mr. Treleaven: It says it will not be proceeded with, and this is a proceeding.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do any other members have comments? It cannot be proceeded with and it cannot be reprinted until it is reported back to

the House. The honourable member does not have a point of order, because it is just being reported. It will be printed and it is up to the House to decide where it will be considered next. I hope that is a satisfactory explanation.

Mr. McClellan: Of course it is. That is what we always do.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think I said that.

Shall the report be received and adopted?

Mr. Treleaven: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bills ordered for committee of the whole House.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Dean: I was part-way through my brief remarks last evening when the bell tolled. Those who were listening attentively, which may not include many more than you, Mr. Speaker, will recall that I addressed the speech from the throne in three areas: care for the elderly, health promotion and the impact of economic change. In each instance, I pointed out some things that were positive in the speech from the throne, but I also tried to outline some positive suggestions for improvement of the government's policies as enunciated. I did this mostly in the area of deficiencies that were apparent from a close reading of the speech.

I will continue with the rest of my remarks.

Under the heading of drinking and driving, I welcome eagerly the strong statement in the speech as follows: "Those who drink and drive will be vigorously prosecuted. Building on Ontario's record in traffic safety and efforts to combat drunk driving, funds will be provided to expand the Ontario Provincial Police reduce impaired driving everywhere program."

I am also pleased the government has recognized the strong program our Progressive Conservative government had in this area in the past. I hope its resolve to follow our lead—after the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) today, I

wonder what resolve there is when he is advocating an alcohol-based drink as beneficial for drivers. I trust that was a slip of the tongue.

In any case, I hope the government's resolve to follow our lead does not take place in 10 years, as so many of its other distant programs seem to be scheduled. I strongly urge the government to leave no gap in the vigorous prosecution of those who drink and then drive. Such irresponsibility on the part of some members of the public must not be allowed to continue. In the past few years, we have been making headway in our determination to make our highways and roads safer for us all, especially for the great majority who do not try to drive after drinking alcohol.

This good item that appears in the speech, however, is sadly neutralized by a very inconsistent pledge, which we find on page 10, where the government states that for the benefit of consumers it will "introduce legislation to permit the distribution of beer and wine in independent grocery stores." That is absolutely ridiculous. Whom does the government think it is kidding?

Our Progressive Conservative task force on this subject found an almost unanimous feeling in the community that such a move would be very hazardous, especially for our young people. The alleged benefits would be more than offset by increased problems of crime, further availability of alcohol, which is already plentifully available, and probably decreased opportunities for the employment of young people in corner stores.

I am for the government backing off in this ill-conceived program. I do not see a single member of the executive council in the Legislature at this time, but I hope this message will get through to at least one of them, perhaps the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), because he seems to be sympathetic to some amenable statements.

Turning from that, I would like to make a brief comment on nonsmoking action. The same emphasis that is put on curbing drunk driving should also be shown by the government in controlling indiscriminate smoking in public places.

In one part of the speech from the throne, reference is made to the government's intention to commit greater resources for cancer treatment and care, and there is a slight emphasis on preventive medicine. Those are good aims, which we can all laud and support, but those aims could be met very effectively in one area by following the lead of the federal government, which is moving to ban smoking in many public places, beginning with airlines and other transportation systems.

This campaign has received its recent impetus from a decision about a month ago by Air Canada to introduce completely smoke-free flights on some major routes for a three-month test period. The airline said if the test is popular among customers, nonsmoking flights will be extended on other short-haul routes. I commend Air Canada for becoming the first major North American airline to introduce nonsmoking flights. Since that time, some others have indicated they will follow the lead of Air Canada.

At the federal level, the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister of Transport have followed this announcement by saying they support it fully and will move independently to prohibit smoking in airlines and other commercial transportation if the carriers do not do it voluntarily.

Here is a golden opportunity for the government of Ontario to co-operate with the federal government in a move that will protect the health of thousands and perhaps millions of Canadians. At the same time, it will have a dramatic effect on health care costs, which are rising in such an uncontrollable fashion in Ontario. This kind of commitment would make a very good addition to the throne speech. Why is it not there?

To atone for that sin of omission, the members of the government may very well decide to support a private members' bill drafted by the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling), Bill Pr71, An Act to protect the Public Health and Comfort and the Environment by Prohibiting and Controlling Smoking in Public Places. When it comes before the committee and the Legislature, I strongly urge the members of the government to support that very worthwhile bill.

The last point on which I wish to make some comments is GO Transit, which has been a runaway success in Ontario since it was begun by our government about 20 years ago. The latest phase was to reach Oshawa and the Burlington-Hamilton area with extended service as soon as necessary rolling stock and track were available. I will not steal the thunder of the members from the Oshawa area by commenting on what is happening there. However, I wish to comment on what seems to be an absolute stall on the part of the government concerning extension in a westerly direction.

3:50 p.m.

The councils of Hamilton and the Hamilton-Wentworth region have made their decision as to where the route should enter Hamilton. Since then, there has been a loud silence from the provincial government as to its role in all this.

There is also not a peep about GO Transit to Hamilton, or any other place, in the speech from the throne. This looks to me as though the government is backing off from its commitment, which had reaffirmed the previous Conservative government's commitment to proceed at once with the extension of this very important service to the Hamilton-Wentworth region.

As in other parts of Ontario, frequent, dependable, convenient rail commuter service will be a boon to Hamilton-Wentworth and will be a necessary ingredient to enable our area to cope with changing economic emphases. Was the omission of reference to this expanded program an oversight in the speech from the throne, or is it simply that the government does not believe it is important enough to include? Whichever it is, I believe it is a disgraceful omission and a worrisome indication of neglect by the present government of the important features for the economic growth and health of areas west of Toronto. We will just chalk it up as another deficiency in the speech from the throne.

In conclusion, as a result of the many deficiencies I have described, it will come as no surprise to the members that I will not be able to support the adoption of the speech from the throne.

Some hon. members: Aw.

Mr. Dean: Is that not sad?

Mr. Epp: Oh, Gordon.

Mr. Dean: The parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer, the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), is almost weeping tears over there at that realization.

Mr. Epp: I am saddened to no end.

Mr. Dean: Perhaps I might refer to him the suggestions I have made for improvement. If the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer could persuade his minister or the rest of the cabinet to carry out some of the things I have pointed out as deficiencies, I would be in a position to vote with him on this.

Mr. Epp: The problem is that the member is going back two speeches from the throne rather than the immediate one. His is going back by two or three of them and mixing this up with the original speech from the throne.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Dean: I do not think the comment made by the member for Waterloo North—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the honourable member will wait. There is a proper time for questions and comments by other members.

Mr. Dean: Yes. I do not think the comment that I am in the wrong speech from the throne is correct. Perhaps the government is in the wrong speech from the throne.

As a result of the many deficiencies, instead of supporting the adoption of that speech from the throne, I will be supporting the amendment that has been moved by the leader of my party, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), outlining those areas in which the speech from the throne did not come up to the high standards to which we are accustomed. I urge the other members of the assembly to vote for that same amendment so we may improve the "vision of the future," as it has been called, which seems to be strangely clouded in many areas of the speech from the throne.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any questions or comments to the member who has just spoken? If not, the member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Allen: That is correct, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see you are no longer confusing me with the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie).

I rise to speak in support of the speech from the throne, but not because it has changed in any respect, quite frankly, with regard to the standards of speeches from the throne we have heard in the past. The speaker who just sat down may be under some illusions about how the quality of this speech from the throne differs in any respect from the ones his own party as a governing party provided to this House.

From my perspective, it rings with much of the same sort of visionary rhetoric but with relatively little detail or substance with which to gauge whether the rhetoric has any substance. That is the way with speeches from the throne these days: one has to wait for a budget which will tell us more precisely how a government will move.

I rise to support the speech, quite simply and frankly, because our party has concluded an agreement with the Liberal Party to provide a stable government to this province for a minimum of two years. As part of that, we have agreed not to move fundamental motions of confidence, and therefore we are prepared to support this speech from the throne in very general terms.

That does not say, Mr. Speaker—or Mr. Alternative Speaker or Assistant Speaker, however I may address you, sir, in all your colourful glory. Your presence in the chair this afternoon is very dramatic. I am not sure whether I would exactly applaud the Speaker wearing a tartan gown. None the less, it is a pleasure to see your

colours in full display. Long may your clan flourish.

Mr. Philip: It is contrary to the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mr. Allen: I am sorry. If it is contrary to that act, I take back all of my remarks.

I want to address the elements of the speech from the throne which relate to matters of elementary, secondary and university education, but there are other items in the speech which attract me.

I am extremely interested in the fund of \$100 million a year—\$50 million of new money each year for 10 years—that the government appears to be proposing, and in the Premier's council on technology and industrial research, which is new. It is a long time since a Premier (Mr. Peterson) has engaged himself directly in an enterprise of spurring the technological development of our economy and the basic research that is necessary to accomplish that.

The public may view \$1 billion over 10 years as a lot of money. In terms of the task at hand, it is a relatively small amount of money. I note that \$50 million a year as new money only meets the requirements suggested by the Bovey Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario as being needed by the universities alone to meet the provincial obligations to fund the overhead costs of research in the universities, quite apart from moving into the support of private sector research or new research projects. The money itself is not a huge amount, and it may not be adequate to accomplish the high objectives that the throne speech lays out for us.

I am also interested in the reference to the facilitation of employee participation and employee ownership in industry. It is long since past the time when we should be moving towards the creation of a third sector of industrial activities in this province. On the one hand, we have non-union, centralized, paternalistically structured industrial companies in which the authoritarian line of command is very clear and unimpeded. On the other hand, we have unionized firms in which a step forward has been taken in industrial relations. One would hope that we would be able to field a third tier of industrial operations in this province in which working people own and operate their own plants, assume the full capacities and apply their energies and talents in a co-operative way to produce the necessary goods for our society.

I do not want to dwell on those issues. Each one could detain us for more than one response to a speech from the throne. I want to turn to the

overarching character and theme that seems to be developing with regard to education in Ontario, if one can read the throne speech correctly.

4 p.m.

For example, one notes that threaded through all the references to elementary, secondary and post-secondary education is the theme of championing entrepreneurship and innovation across the province. There is the persistent repetition of the word "entrepreneur" and variants of it. There is a constant repetition of the need to further science study and to develop graduates who can be innovative in business, marketing skills and entrepreneurship. There is constant reference to the need to develop a sensitivity towards technology through the school system. There is a litany or refrain with the periodic appearance of the words "entrepreneur," "entrepreneurialism," "entrepreneurial," "entrepreneurship" and so on. I suggest the throne speech, in particular this part of it, was dreamt up in the Elysian fields where entrepreneurial heroes suspect they will go after their demise. I say "suspect" because there are other people who suspect the entrepreneurial ethic, particularly some manifestations of it, leads in other directions.

When one applies this thrust to the educational system, there are some very disturbing questions one must ask. The first is with respect to the potential distortion of what education is all about. It is not that trade and industry and science and technology are in any respect strangers to education or that education is a stranger to them, but one suspects that the theme of the speech from the throne, in particular this section on education, is intended to draw something of a veil across what really needs to be done.

One suspects that the note that is struck and the words that are used are for a certain political purpose: to attract the attention of a certain part of the community to the government so that instead of being pilloried as it was during the past 12 months for moving into such sectors as equal pay for work of equal value, first-contract legislation and reducing medical entrepreneurialism, which we heard lauded so much on the front lawn this afternoon, the government thereby attracts the support of groups which the government is beginning to be concerned feel somewhat alienated from this administration.

If that is the tactic that is intended in this speech from the throne, if that is the message and the purpose of the rhetoric, then the use of the educational system as a vehicle for getting that message across is a tragic choice and an unfortunate mistake. If there is one part of our

society that ought to be dealt with straightforwardly in terms of its problems and in terms of the needs of that profession and that activity without the interference of political rhetoric, remedies and intrusions, it is the field of education.

The first step down the road with regard to the elementary and secondary education reforms that are intended according to this speech from the throne was taken a week ago by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), who said he was going to provide some untargeted and unspecified moneys to assist boards in their relationship with the world of industry and business in their communities. Apparently there is no plan, program or substantial concept as to how that is to be done. The second step was the creation of a couple of courses in entrepreneurialism in the latter years of the secondary school system. The third was a computerization of job search skills, presumably to make use of the computer an attraction to students in developing their job search skills. The centrepiece seemed to be courses in entrepreneurship.

As I heard those remarks, I wondered why the ministry was moving in entrepreneurship. Have there been any studies—there are none I am aware of—that the ministry has undertaken to suggest that the fundamental problem in the education system in its interface with the business world is the need to produce more entrepreneurs?

My sense of what is happening in the economy is that there are entrepreneurial spirits out there who are having a lot of trouble with a lot of problems in applying their entrepreneurialism. However, I do not have any sense and I have not seen any studies that tell me there is a shortage of people with entrepreneurial energies, characteristics or spirit ready to move into that domain. Neither have I seen any studies that tell me the way to increase the number of entrepreneurs in the system is to establish a couple of courses in grade 11 and grade 12 in the high school system.

I do not have any objection to the notion of an entrepreneurial course per se or to the injection of entrepreneurial skills into the business courses and electives of the secondary school system. I have no doubt that our economy—indeed, all sectors of organized life in the Ontario community—require enterprising people, but I repeat: I do not know of any study that tells me our bank or stock of that type of person is significantly increased by the establishment of two courses in the latter years of high school.

I am aware there are boards in Ontario that have explored and in some cases set up labour

studies programs that were intended to provide a broad introduction to the world of labour that all of us, both entrepreneurs and working people in industrial production, experience as part of our daily lives. The broad and full ramifications of the world of work in all its aspects certainly need to be explored in our school system.

Why focus suddenly on entrepreneurialism and entrepreneurs rather than on the broad world of work or on the whole history of labour? Why not focus on the development of the work ethic in our society or on the forces that militate against the application of the work ethic and against living out the work ethic in our society and economy? Why should we not have courses that lead to a greater appreciation of the world of collective bargaining and industrial relations? Why not have courses on the difficulties, problems and issues that working people of all kinds experience, whether at the management level or at the assembly-line level? That would be a creative step in the school system. Targeting entrepreneurs and entrepreneurialism for special treatment seems to be unfounded in terms of any research that tells us such courses are necessary, useful or effective. These courses do not address the broader problems of the students in our schools.

My exploration of the problems of local business in Hamilton has led me to draw some other conclusions on why there is a frustration of the spirit of entrepreneurialism in many of our communities. For example, there is a lack of institutional readiness to assist budding entrepreneurs to develop their products, to find the money for feasibility studies or to secure ready and ongoing credit in their developmental period. There is a lack of policy at the provincial and federal level with regard to import replacement and a lack of necessary information defining the products we might replace from our own productive apparatus. At the federal level, there is a lack of Canadian content legislation. There are no programs to support community venture capital undertakings. There are no technology brokerage arrangements in this province whereby individuals would be compensated for matching new technology and entrepreneurs so that we can get new businesses. There are no structures or provisions of that kind in Ontario. That is where the problem of entrepreneurial frustration lies.

I suspect the two courses in question, whether or not they attract interest from students, will be relatively unimportant in the grand scenario the

throne speech lays out before us. Therefore, they appear to be pretty irrelevant.

4:10 p.m.

When I ask myself how we might better harness the energies and interests of high school students and produce the excellence of which the throne speech speaks, I am led to think of other problems, such as the fact that for a whole host of reasons the drop-out rate, especially among general-level and basic-level students, is phenomenally high in this province and is increasing despite the school reforms of recent years and the attention the problem was given.

From 1980-81 to 1984-85, the drop-out rate climbed steadily, especially in grades 11 and 12. It went up by almost two percentage points for grade 11 students, from 13.2 per cent in 1980-81 to 15.1 per cent in 1984-85. For grade 12 students, it went from 16.1 per cent to 20.2 per cent, an increase of more than four full percentage points. Overall, 62,209 students dropped out of our school system and did not go beyond grade 12. About 60 per cent of the general-level students drop out and do not secure high school graduation diplomas.

There are other problems. There is the problem of the drift to a more elite high school curriculum in the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions program, with very little attention being given to special enhancement of general-level studies, for example. As a result, the general-level student finds his chances of making it through high school, into college and through a college program are one out of every 25 general-level students who began in grade 9. There is a failure to address the drift of low-income and ethnic students from general-level down to basic-level courses and the degree to which they are negatively streamed lower and lower in the school system. There is a continuing alienation of the parents of such children, who find it exceedingly difficult to communicate with teachers and vice versa and with the educational administrations they should be in contact with.

Against this major background is the issue of persistent functional illiteracy in our system. About 20 per cent of adults in this province are functionally illiterate. If one looks at particular communities in Ontario, such as the francophone community, the rate is double that. That is an appalling tragedy. Even having to observe that is a real travesty on our education system, but these are products of our school system. Those percentages do not reflect the problems that new arrivals of other language groups experience in

this country. Overall, they are the products of the system we have, and that needs to alarm us.

If one wants to strive for excellence in the school system, one has to try to overcome those problems and undertake a strategy for family and community involvement in the school system on a number of points. For example, the following might address some of those persistent and dramatic points of failure of the system as it exists.

In the first place, if we are to move in on the problem of drop-out rates, it is absolutely crucial that the Minister of Education establish clear targets to aim for, year by year, in their reduction and create an emergency action unit within the ministry that will move in on that problem in a vigorous and effective way, in tandem with boards of education.

In my view, the minister should also mandate the creation of school community relations departments in boards across this province, modelled on the recent school community relations department of the Toronto Board of Education, which has been gutted so viciously by a counter-revolutionary group—if I can call it that—in the board of education following the last municipal school board election. That was a very effective unit. It worked actively with parents, brought them into contact with the schools and the teachers and vice versa. It opened up the avenues of communication, became very intimately involved with the parents and established the kind of rapport that is necessary for their children to succeed in the school system.

Given the fact that in many of our cities we have so many newcomers to our communities who are not familiar with our institutions and who do not feel comfortable accessing them and approaching those in authority, including the teacher in the classroom, and who often have difficulties in language and culture in bridging those gaps, a school community relations department that actively pursues this role would be a godsend to the education system of this province if it were mandated across the province.

Third, heritage language instruction should be permitted to take place within the legal school day. It has been conclusively demonstrated that when newly arrived children in our communities learn in their own language, their progress in all fields of their study, including their progress in English, is dramatically improved. Part of the reason for that is by learning in their own language, students can be helped at home by their parents, and their parents are able to understand their programs of study. One is able to get the

family unit providing the kind of moral support that is so critical to progress at school.

Fourth, I suggest the immediate establishment of a working group to tackle the problem of low-streaming of ethnic and low-income students. This has been a concern for some time in the city of Toronto. The evidence that has been accumulated by a board of education study there makes it plain that the issue must be more widespread than just in that one board.

The problem one meets in that respect is pretty dramatic. For example, what are the results of the streaming system as far as those particular groups of low-income and recently arrived ethnic students are concerned? It was discovered that in elementary schools, English-speaking, Canadian-born students who had difficulties were most often found in perceptual programs, learning centres, home instruction programs or hospital centres. In other words, special attention was paid to them to give them the kind of remediation they needed.

However, if a student from a newly immigrant and non-English-speaking family was having some difficulty in school, that student would most frequently find himself in special classes for slow learners, those with behaviour problems or for language development. The problem of such a student, by being placed in those settings, was frequently compounded because he had the additional burden of being placed in a group that was there for other purposes than his own problem.

In the secondary schools, it was discovered that Canadian-born students with English as the language of the home were most likely to be in advanced-level programs, whereas foreign-born, non-English-speaking students were the least likely to be in advanced-level programs.

With respect to social class, in general the study discovered that students from lower socioeconomic classes are in special education classes more frequently than those from other socioeconomic classes. As we move up the economic ladder of occupations for the parents, we find fewer students in special education classes, although the real incidence of intelligence and capacity is demonstrably not different.

4:20 p.m.

Children from families in the lowest job groups were 20 times more likely to be in slow learner classes than children from families in the highest job groups. Surely this is an immense distortion of reality with respect to the latent and real capacities of the students concerned. Children from low-status groups also stayed longer in

special education classes than did those from upper-status groups.

Students from higher social classes had a 90 per cent chance of entering advanced-level streams in secondary school, but students from lower social classes had a 50 per cent chance of entering advanced-level streams in secondary school. When compared with all other elementary students, those from inner-city schools were the most likely to be in all types of special education classes.

That is a disastrous set of circumstances in a province that embraces the concept of equal opportunity yet allows that kind of invidious influence of immigrant, language and economic status to pervade the system and to distort its promised goals. In that connection, one has to refer again to the drop-out problem, because the whole problem of low-streaming militates against the ambition of any student to stay in school longer.

As a parenthesis in regard to what we are doing with separate schools, it is very interesting that at the point where the separate school system ends, namely, grades 10 and 11, the drop-out rate is far higher for the students in that system than it is for those in the public school system. At those grade levels, 13.62 per cent of the separate school students leave their schools, whereas among the public school children it is only 8.27 per cent across the board. This means there are real educational reasons for completing the separate school system and making it a continuous-flow system. The holding power of the schools to keep children engaged in their studies is that much more enhanced.

I have another suggestion in regard to this program of rehabilitating, if you like, the school system to deal with the problem of drop-out, low-stream children that occurs as a result of the interface of a school system with the groups in question. I had the opportunity last week to speak at some length with some visitors from Britain who were instrumental in establishing a new interfaith, multifait, secular religious education program in British schools in recent years.

An interesting thing that has happened with respect to that program, which is established across the board at all the grade levels in the entire system as a compulsory program of study, is that when people approach a given school district and ask what is being done for cultural and ethnic groups there, they are almost automatically referred to the program of religious studies as the one that is most obviously and vigorously

engaged in relating to the now very varied ethnic communities, particularly in the major cities.

A recent report in Britain, the Swan report, which looked at the major problems in education from a broadly secular point of view, said the most important thing in making the new cultural groups in British society feel they were a part of the educational system was the establishment and development in the boards of this kind of interfaith program of studies. When one stops and thinks about it, after all, religious study is so closely involved with cultural existence and cultural groups of all kinds that it makes a great deal of sense. It provides a natural vehicle for involving those groups in the school system.

Some time I want to address that subject at greater length and in greater detail, but I think it is significant. It would be significant for the ethnic groups, for example, in this large city of Toronto to be able to find in their schools that Caribbean religious groups and traditions found some recognition, that central African religious traditions found some reflection and interest and that south Asian students found their religious traditions were of interest. They would feel much more at home as a result of that. At the same time, we would make the school system a much more universal and comprehensive place for all children to study. We would also bring it much more closely into rapport with the real, live communities that exist in our varied and pluralistic society.

In short, the direction the throne speech takes with regard to elementary and secondary education is essentially a nonstarter and an ineffective approach to achieving the objectives the speech sets out for us. If one wants to accomplish the excellence in the school system that by all means we all want to achieve, we must undertake more fundamental things than creating computerized job search programs and showpiece entrepreneurial courses in grades 11 and 12.

I want to make a few remarks about the throne speech in relation to the university sector. There is not a great deal spelled out in detail in the throne speech, and I understand that. Some of what is got at is quite legitimate. It is true that the universities are in need of much greater support for their research activities. It is important to create specialized chairs in fields such as the sciences, with distinguished chairs for outstanding scientists and even for people in entrepreneurial studies.

I am concerned that the balance is weighted so heavily in a particular direction. When the Premier was asked about this subject, the report

was, "Mr. Peterson was reluctant to acknowledge at a news conference that liberal arts in universities may soon be playing second fiddle to commerce and technology, but he did say that Ontario is no longer able to be 'all things to all people.'" What does this mean? Does it mean we are saying we want our universities to become specialized scientific research institutions, nothing more and nothing less?

"The humanities, he said, play an important role in developing 'a more critical, more thoughtful, more gentle, more civilized society ...on the other hand, this is a tough, cold world.'" One is left with the impression that somehow there is something soft about the humanities and social sciences that relates to a gentle tradition in our social life and that on the other hand, business and science are hard and tough and will meet the hard and tough realities.

The interesting thing in this respect is that the Premier apparently has not heard the business community which, reports tell us, increasingly finds that the people who are best able to function within the corporate structures in preparing reports, analysing situations and providing leadership skills are students who have come through humanities and social science programs. They have a breadth of understanding. They have been trained in research skills. Their literacy and communication skills are well developed. In the choice of most business persons, they now rank considerably ahead of masters of business administration in terms of the preferred graduates the business community is looking for. They rank in the top three, along with science graduates and engineering and technology graduates, as the preferred graduates business wants.

When the throne speech addresses the universities issue, it misses the point. The Premier's dichotomized world of a gentle side and a hard, tough side, with one part of the university speaking to one and another part of the university speaking to the other, is so far from reality as to be almost laughable. It is bound to generate a very distorted response to the university sector.

4:30 p.m.

For example, if one wants people who are able to understand and respond to that tough, hard world out there, then one can reasonably argue that those graduates with a broad training in the humanities that explores all aspects of human society and the human past, or the social scientist who understands the interplay of groups, interests and economic forces as well as other social and cultural factors, all of which make it difficult to cope with the reality around us, whether it be

economic or otherwise, will be prized, as they are by the business community.

The throne speech makes some reference to maintaining the level of support for the core programs in the liberal arts and in the undergraduate science program. If the objective is to maintain that level, this province and this throne speech are saying that standing ninth out of 10 provinces in the funding levels of those core programs through its operational grants is good enough.

When one looks at the dollars that are necessary to move this province to the national average level of expenditure per student in the country, one sees it will be necessary to spend not just as much as the province is proposing to spend annually on this research and technological development program that is the centrepiece of the throne speech; in point of fact, it will cost almost twice as much as that.

That will be necessary to do what the representatives of such successful corporations as Northern Telecom tell us will be necessary to maintain the flow of scientific personnel into our business community. They have had to go abroad to look for the graduates they need. They find that the supply is not adequate here in Ontario. If one asks the National Research Council specialists who work in this field, they too will say we have barely enough graduating science students at this time to feed the economic system of this province at the level at which it is currently performing.

In other words, if the throne speech program is going to be effective in producing some elevation of economic activity, then one fundamental fact stands out hard and clear: this government is going to have to fund the fundamental core programs in our universities at a significantly higher level simply to provide the number of science graduates we will need to keep abreast of the economic growth that is expected.

If we do not do that, we can have all the fancy funding of advanced research projects and university and private sector projects, and they will only be frustrated in the long run by a shortage of personnel to keep them going. We will end up hiring specialists from the United States and elsewhere, if they are available—and they may not be. In other words, we will be back to the old game we have always played in this country, and that is to rely on imports of expertise, whether it is critical trade skills or high-level research scientists, finally to top off our national strategic objectives.

That should not be necessary. We have the resources in this country and in this province to produce our own in those respects, and it is time we focused ourselves in such a way as to make certain the foundations are there in the core programs of study and in the financing of them. We can thereafter do the building that is necessary for the economic future of this province as well as for that gentler social future, which I must admit is very attractive to me, as I am sure it is to all other members of this Legislature. There would be no objective for us if we were to gain the world of economic prowess but our communities disintegrated or if we felt the quality of our life together as a society was dramatically impaired. That would surely be to shoot ourselves in the head, and that is not what we want to do either in this province or elsewhere in this country.

I want to reserve further remarks on these subjects until I see the hard figures the Treasurer will be bringing before us in about a week. I understand he will be wanting to tell us about some \$2 billion in unanticipated revenue. We will be looking with great interest to see precisely how he is going to dispose of those moneys. I hope they will be spent wisely, actively and energetically in sectors that will make a dramatic difference to the future of elementary, secondary and post-secondary education and as a future potential both in terms of the economy of the province and the quality of our life together.

I conclude my remarks on the speech from the throne by expressing the hope that the perspective that is opened up in the speech will be effective. I have some serious reservations about the emphases that have been laid in the speech with respect to the education sector, but I hope we will be able to work our way around them and secure a little more realism, and perhaps a bit more effectiveness down the road, from the gentlemen opposite.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: I am truly honoured to rise in support of this historic throne speech, the first Liberal throne speech in Ontario in almost 43 years. It also is a pleasure to come before the House today as the first minister in Canada to have been made responsible for seniors' affairs.

Before I get into the main thrust of my comments, which relate to seniors, I want to recognize the citizens of London North who tell me that they applaud this throne speech. These very discerning people in London North understand what we are about in this new Liberal government. I am proud to serve them. London is a beautiful community. We have an almost

perfect balance of socioeconomic circumstances. We have the finest education system that one can find anywhere in Ontario. We are blessed with an abundance of excellent medical service. We have very active cultural and religious communities. In total, I can say that I am very fortunate to come from that community and to be able to represent it. I am truly proud to be able to do so.

4:40 p.m.

I want to direct the majority of my remarks to Ontario's senior citizens and the milestones that have been reached in this throne speech with respect to the care for the elderly of this province. Over the next 15 years, the number of Ontario senior citizens will balloon by some 55 per cent, going from the present approximate 900,000 to 1.4 million by the year 2001. The reasons for this growth are many. Our society's scientific and medical advances have allowed people to live longer and healthier lives. The result is an increasingly active and vocal senior citizenry. These people receive service and assistance from many provincial ministries that have evolved with all good intention but, I am sorry to say, with no overall game plan.

Members will recall that the main thrust of the throne speech, in the section that addressed itself to independent living for seniors, reflected the determination of our government to assist seniors to remain in their own homes within their community for as long as possible. I want to repeat some of the main comments in the throne speech just to make us mindful of that main thrust.

It was indicated that our government is committed to improving the quality of life of the elderly and to supporting their desire to live fully independent lives. We are committed to marshalling the resources of all relevant ministries to implement needed steps, and we intend to do this in the immediate future. We are going to place a greater emphasis on programs to allow seniors to live independently in their own communities. Community services will be co-ordinated to ensure that senior citizens who require assistance are properly assessed and obtain the necessary services with a minimum of inconvenience and delay.

Regional geriatric units will be created. A multidisciplinary department of geriatrics will be established at an Ontario university as part of a major commitment to improve teaching in the area of geriatric care. Our government will also undertake efforts to assure the quality of life of nursing home residents and support community

organizations in the development of recreational services and activities for the retired.

That has been the philosophy of our party. That is the intent of our actions as we proceed to move from this throne speech into the budget and the activities of our government that follow the throne speech and the budget.

I want to go back to some of our activities in the latter part of the summer, the time at which we became government and I first became minister, to review some of the activities that have led me, our Premier and my cabinet and caucus colleagues to the point that we are now at with our services for seniors.

When I first became minister in the early part of July 1985, I chose to meet with the executive of the 14 major organizations in Ontario that direct their activities to seniors. These organizations were the Association of Jewish Seniors, the Canadian Council of Retirees, the Canadian Institute of Religion and Gerontology, Canadian Pensioners' Concerned Inc., the Ontario Social Development Council, the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario, the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils, the Senior Talent Bank Association of Ontario, Senior Volunteers in Service, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario, the Third Age Learning Association and the United Senior Citizens of Ontario.

When I met with these folks, the very first thing they said was that they were delighted to be able to meet not only me but also the other people in the room. Here were 14 major organizations, all striving to assist seniors, that up to that point had never got together to share their views, to examine their goals and objectives and perhaps to try to improve the various services they provide for seniors.

That was followed by a series of consultation meetings in cities and towns across Ontario. As my method of operation, I tried to meet both the providers and the users of service. I tried not to direct them, but rather to listen to them to see what their problems are. In other words, as I was reviewing the programs and services the province offers, I wanted to find out where the problems were and what people thought would be good solutions. I also wanted to find out where there were gaps and where there were overlaps.

In a span of six weeks, I visited 18 communities across all parts of Ontario and heard from more than 650 people. One of the most pleasant aspects of all these meetings was the genuine happiness that people expressed when we met,

saying simply that they were glad they had a government that was listening.

As we went on with the process, it became very clear to me that the task was so large that if I were to examine all aspects of services to seniors, I would probably not finish it within a year. As I indicated a few moments ago, there are many different ministries that provide services to seniors. The major two are the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, but there are others. The Ministry of Revenue is involved with property tax rebates, sales tax rebates and the guaranteed annual income system. The Ministry of the Attorney General becomes involved with trusteeship and guardianship. Transportation and housing issues affect seniors, and the list goes on.

As I was learning and going about the task of sorting things out, I determined to break it into two parts. The first part concentrated on the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the Ministry of Health. I am pleased to say that by October 15, I was able to turn over to the Premier a very complete report with recommendations on those two ministries. The Premier was so impressed with the document that he chose to send it through the process of committees of cabinet.

Members who were former cabinet ministers realize this is a necessary part of the government process; that is, reports can either be received and shelved or they can be put to the scrutiny of the caucus and cabinet and dealt with accordingly. That is what the Premier chose to do because it has been a long-standing determination of his, both as Premier and when he was Leader of the Opposition, to direct attention to the affairs of senior citizens.

This report, which was completed October 15, has gone through the various stages of committee review. It has been examined, re-examined and will be ready for public scrutiny very shortly in the form of a white paper. I anticipate that white paper will be out before this session is completed, if not within the very few weeks to follow.

As that work is being completed, we are now in the process of the other phase; that is, reviewing the various services provided through the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Revenue. When this report comes out, I urge all members to examine it with a critical eye, and yet with a sympathetic eye.

Having heard the speeches, particularly of the past couple of days and that of the member for—

Mr. Cureatz: York Centre.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: The member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) was the most recent speaker to concentrate on seniors' activities. Yesterday, the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) also concentrated his comments on that theme, and I add parenthetically that he left the impression that perhaps there was no such thing as a white paper. I will be delighted to prove him a touch inaccurate in that observation.

4:50 p.m.

As I was saying, I urge all members to take a look at this both critically and sympathetically. When we put our political stripes aside, I am sure we all agree that the seniors of this province deserve every consideration. Moreover, the government needs to come up with an overall game plan, and that is what I hope it will see in the white paper. We will be making decisions for the long haul in that process. That is why I was particularly pleased to see the speech from the throne making strides in that direction, which are indicative of long-term planning.

Again, I point out one or two examples of evidence already before us that indicate our sincerity in that direction. A multidisciplinary department of geriatrics will be established at an Ontario university as part of our major commitment to improve teaching in the area of geriatric care.

We must be mindful too of some earlier evidence of our sincerity in this area. That evidence was provided on January 28 by my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and myself. We made a pair of statements to reflect the determination and concern we have to improve community service and home service for seniors.

The Minister of Community and Social Services spoke at length about the integrated homemaker plan, whereas I indicated we would extend the community support services for such things as Meals on Wheels, escorted transportation and home help. The budget allotment for that improvement was \$2 million. I also indicated \$750,000 would be earmarked for the additional 50 elderly persons centres in Ontario.

We indicated there would be a \$40,000 commitment to senior volunteers and service programs. We also indicated that seniors talent banks, which have been established in some areas of the province, would be added to by setting up \$60,000 worth of new seniors talent banks in the province. We talked about community development officers who would be hired to go into isolated communities where they would

organize and develop community support for elderly people who live there and who need such assistance. There would be \$750,000 for that program. There was evidence.

By the way, I do not want to forget the \$1 million we identified for day care and relief services for families who have a person in the family suffering from Alzheimer's disease. This is a very clear indication of the sincerity and determination we have as a government to improve services for seniors.

As I said a moment ago, we should put away our political stripes and forget this business of saying: "You are not doing anything. You are really missing the mark." We should forget that type of partisanship and remember that the goal of all honourable members should be that of improving the circumstance of the elderly in our province.

I want to spend a moment reflecting again on the theme of seniors and home service and home support. These programs would not succeed if we did not recognize the role of volunteers in our community. They give so freely of their time to ensure that the lives of seniors are more meaningful.

I am happy to report that the enthusiasm of volunteers will not go unrecognized. June 1986 will be Senior Citizens' Month. In this month, a special ceremony will be hosted by the government at which the Premier will present achievement awards to outstanding senior citizens from across this province. It is a time when we should all take off our hats to our seniors.

We will be rewarding these seniors who have made an outstanding contribution to the citizens of Ontario during their retirement years. I would like, again parenthetically, to thank the members present who have submitted nomination forms to a nomination committee, which is made up of a member from the New Democratic Party, one from the Progressive Conservative Party and one from the Liberal Party. It is a combined team effort to go through these nomination forms and select the outstanding volunteers in this province of ours. They will all be recognized in June.

I believe Senior Citizens' Month will be memorable. I hope members will encourage in his or her riding any local activity that may be going on to promote seniors and volunteers in their own areas.

Along with the Senior Achievement Awards, seniors will be able to look forward to the white paper I indicated a moment ago. I hope too that, along with members as their representatives, they will look at the paper in a sympathetic and

yet critical way, because we must get on with the job; we must make sure that our intent is met.

Lastly, I want to leave these comments with a quotation which I consider an appropriate reflection on my thoughts so far. It was made by an official who works in a similar capacity in the Republic of France. He said: "I do not have two policies regarding seniors—that of institutions and that of deinstitutionalization—but rather only one: global. Its objective is to allow the ageing the freedom to choose as long as possible their way of life and to fulfil their existence with dignity."

That is my aim. That is my government's aim. I think it is truly reflected in this throne speech.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Are there any questions or comments?

Mr. Cureatz: I have some questions or comments. It is my understanding that we have a very brief two minutes. It will be very difficult, especially in view of the fact that from time to time I do like to make some long and lengthy comments.

First, as we have a minute and 46 seconds and counting—I feel as though we are at blast-off time—let me congratulate the minister for participating in the debate on the speech from the throne. In the times when I have been on House duty, I have noticed other ministers have participated.

In my humble experience when at a particular time the Conservative Party formed the government, I cannot actually remember a minister, or ministers, so actively taking part in the throne speech debate. It is a little refreshing to see, notwithstanding the fact that the government probably is short of members and is looking desperately to get speakers to fill in the time. I can understand that, but it is interesting to watch and participate.

More specifically, I congratulate the minister who just spoke. From time to time, we have got along very well. I can say honestly that he is a person who sets aside partisan political comments from time to time and just tries to do what I think I do, the job of representing one's constituency.

To comment briefly about the seniors' concerns that we all have, I am very happy the minister has taken the initiative. It is a large package to try to get a handle on in terms of the difficulties we encounter.

I spoke with the minister yesterday about a situation we had in Orono with our senior citizens' residence where the nonprofit board had increased the rent by 24 per cent. That increase

for those seniors who are currently renting at what is actually a very fine establishment in Orono has made them a little hard pressed. Unfortunately, the board had misjudged its calculations in over five years and probably should have increased the rent a little higher. The minister will be curious about one question.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time is up.

Mr. Cureatz: Does he anticipate whether the nonprofit organization regarding seniors will be limited to renting?

The Acting Speaker: Order. Does the minister wish to reply?

5 p.m.

Mr. Cureatz: On a point of order: We have another colleague of ours who wants to make some comments with regard to this issue.

Mr. Guindon: I would like to congratulate the Minister without Portfolio, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), for his sincerity; it shows in his work. I did not hear anything in the speech from the throne about French-speaking senior citizens. What does the speech from the throne do for these people?

The Acting Speaker: Minister, you have two minutes.

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: Very briefly, the question put to me by the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) is one that I cannot reply to right now and will have to take under advisement. Housing is part of the second main paper, which we are just starting to work on. I will not wait until we get into that, but rather will ask that his question be looked into by staff immediately. I will try to work along with them because, quite frankly, I have to learn too as I go through the exercise. I will get into that one as quickly as I can.

In so far as the member for Cornwall (Mr. Guindon) is concerned, the white paper was completed in English last week. On my very small staff of nine people, I have one person who is very fluently bilingual. I asked her to take the French translation, which we just received, and go through it to make sure the language was what we intended. As my friend knows, there are some literal translations that lose their meaning.

I do not know whether I am expressing this correctly, but we want to make sure the language is not what a PhD would pick up and read, but rather what a layperson such as myself or perhaps the member would understand. It is to be finished by this weekend; that is, just the mechanics of presentation.

The white paper will be available in both languages. There is reference in it to the services and the things we talk about being available in remote communities in the north, many of which are practically all French-speaking. It is intended to apply to both the francophone and native populations.

Mr. Taylor: I appreciate this opportunity to participate in the throne speech debate. It is not the first time, but it is certainly the first time I have participated in a debate on a throne speech that was concocted—if I may use that word—by a Liberal government. I know it was written by the Lieutenant Governor (Mr. Alexander), who is a very fine gentleman. However, I suspect there might have been some influence in his scribblings from the Liberal Party and, in particular, the Premier. I hope I do not offend the Lieutenant Governor when I comment in a constructive but positively critical way with regard to some of the aspects. In others, I believe in being constructive; we have to think positively.

I commend the speech in its development of a framework which has some perspective. I like the concept of century 21. We are approaching that century, some of us more swiftly than others, I suppose. As we age, time seems to fly by more quickly, and century 21 does not seem that far away. As we approach the 21st century, we have to look to see where we are going and what we want to accomplish.

The speech from the throne attempts to develop some kind of perspective in that regard. That perspective is focused primarily on the economies of the nation and the province and on the welfare of the people who are so dependent upon a prosperous economy. The perspective strikes me as one from the writings of Buckminster Fuller. Some members may remember him. Years ago, when I was first elected in 1971, there was that great Spadina ditch and the ban the Spadina campaign. It was Premier Davis who brought in Buckminster Fuller to develop a concept to utilize that Spadina right of way. He conjured up in his imagination—and what an imagination—some neo-Egyptian development along that grade throughout the route. Some members may remember that. I see some nodding of heads.

That same Buckminster Fuller also had another notion, which was later developed by Barbara Ward. Some members may remember her writings as an economist. The members with a socialist leaning may remember her as a left-leaning British economist. There is nothing wrong with that; I do not mean to offend anyone.

She was a very bright person and a kind lady. She wrote a little book called *Spaceship Earth*. Do members remember that? It looked at the planet Earth as a spaceship with all systems contained. It immediately brought to mind the need to be so careful of our surroundings, of our environment, of our interdependency and of the need for peace and care.

That concept struck me because it is so true. With the space age now, and the shots we get from outer space in which we can look at our globe and see how small it is—it fits into the television screen—we realize in some respects how insignificant we may be as individuals but how important and how precious this planet Earth is.

As I take that concept to Canada and Ontario, I see events such as the speculated meltdown of a reactor in the Soviet Union, an event in another nation in some other part of the globe that affects us, with a nuclear cloud or fallout and the pollution of our air, our soil and our water. It is so important to work together to ensure that we have a good, safe environment.

This is also important for a riding such as mine, and now I am becoming very parochial. The world as a whole has become most generous in its development of the understanding of other nations. If we look at the province, it is so cosmopolitan now; Metropolitan Toronto is so cosmopolitan. The makeup of our community and our peoples is interesting. We have a population of about nine million in Ontario, two and a half million of whom were not born in Canada. How the province has been enriched by the mix that is taking place.

5:10 p.m.

Let me come now to a little part of Ontario that I represent, the riding of Prince Edward-Lennox. Mr. Speaker, you will know better than anyone that Prince Edward county is a veritable jewel nestled in Lake Ontario. It is a magnificent piece of geography dependent on the farm community, tourism and small industry. It is such a precious place.

It is important that the province, with the new government, carry on the fine work of the Conservative tradition of ensuring that everything possible is done to clean up our waterways, to handle the industrial waste. I know it is early yet—it is May 7 today—but living on the Bay of Quinte, I see the thick algae forming already. The water is so cold, but the algae is so green and so thick for this time of year. I wonder where the nutrients are coming from.

We have the fishermen out now. We have had them all winter. At one time we did not have the fishermen. Many of these waterways were veritable open sewage systems, a shame for a prosperous nation and a prosperous province. We had that situation, but as it was cleaned up, the fish came back. At first the lack of fish was blamed on the commercial fishermen. We get all the political answers. No matter which party is in power, we get the political answers. When the fish came back, it was because of the fine work of government in restoring the environment that should have been there before.

Now that the fish are back, the commercial fishermen are having other problems because of government buyout policies. We have a member opposite who is aware of the commercial fishing industry in his riding and of the difficult times commercial fishermen are having. This livelihood has succeeded generation after generation, with the same families going back more than 100 years. It is a tremendous tradition that is a part of the seascape. It is important that occupations and industries in Ontario, such as the fishing industry, be given more consideration than they are being given now.

Tourism is another area. I was somewhat amused when I saw the specifics of the throne speech: the toilets on the freeways—the comfort stations on the highways of the nation—and beer and wine in the corner stores. Those were the specifics of the throne speech. I do not know whether they were intentionally inserted to create a little humour, but seriously, it is a good idea to develop our freeways as communication centres as well as transportation corridors.

We need more information centres. We need more of the signing that promotes the province. Lennox, in my riding of Prince Edward-Lennox, is a delightful piece of landscape with wonderful pastoral settings and magnificent vistas. Some members go there. As a matter of fact, I believe one member was born in the delightful town of Napanee.

When we have an asset such as this that is dependent upon tourism to some degree—certainly it is a very important industry in our area—then I think the province must look at and exploit every possible avenue to help promote the industry, not through fancy advertising alone, but through proper signing.

We must be given the signs we require to let people know where we are. The travelling public does not have to bypass us on these thoroughways. In the information centres and the little rest stops we should inform people where they can admire

the landscape, so they will say, "Yes, I would like to visit Picton, Napanee, Cherry Valley, Bloomfield or Wellington." I implore the government to do something more, to think positively, to assist us and to get behind us.

For example, we have two fairly new bridges. One is the Skyway bridge, which joins Prince Edward county to Hastings on the mainland as one goes off Highway 401 to Picton. That bridge is a beautiful sight in itself, well designed and engineered to accommodate the navigation. It has a large span, probably a quarter of a mile in length. There are more than 30 light standards that seem to blossom at night. They are so helpful on bad winter nights. What has happened? They leave two or three light standards on now and the rest of them are blacked out. We as a province cannot afford to light the Skyway bridge.

A new bridge called the Bay bridge was built from Belleville to Rossmore in Ameliasburgh township. It is brand-new, not three years old, a \$14-million structure. There is not a light. What a delightful sight that would be if one can imagine that span. It is almost poetic, if one can envisage this delightful structure over the Bay of Quinte. But at night it is just a piece of barren highway, confined on either side by a concrete rail, with no lighting. On a stormy day, in bad weather, again it has no lighting.

I speak to my Liberal friends over there. If they want to make some inroads, do some of these little things for the little people. Give us the electricity to light these magnificent highways, these entrances to areas such as ours. I am not blaming their government for that, because that was done by the previous government. I want to be honest. I am not here to lecture the Liberals for bad deeds; I am here to implore them to help areas such as ours by doing these little things that would be so helpful.

Another thing I ask the government to consider is greater assistance to the education system, the system we have now, the public school system. This is something for which I can fault the Liberal government. This year, provincial assistance to the Prince Edward County Board of Education has dropped from 65 per cent to 63 per cent, a drop of two percentage points. Two percentage points does not sound like very much, but it translates into a 20 per cent tax increase to the people of Prince Edward county. Imagine that.

Here we have a government that is bragging about windfall revenues resulting from an upsurge in the economy. Without being partisan, Mr. Speaker—you know I am never partisan—that

was probably fuelled and inflamed by the previous government, and now the Liberals have reaped that windfall. If they can take credit for something they did not do, more power to them. They might as well take the credit; they are politicians.

Mr. Haggerty: The Conservatives have done that for years.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Taylor: If the member wants some lessons, I am sure some of my colleagues can help him even in that regard.

The fact remains that it is under this government that we have had this cut, which impacts so severely on the taxpayers of Prince Edward county.

If I may, I would like to read excerpts from a few newspaper clippings. This one is from *The Intelligencer*, a daily newspaper in Belleville. My friend the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), who is the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, will be very aware of this. The headline is "Education Costs Alarming." There is an interview with some of the municipal leaders, the reeves and wardens in the county. "Wellington Reeve Bill Greer told councillors that in the village of Wellington, the board's new budget will bring an increase of \$45,000 or 24 per cent in the local levy." Imagine that. That is a 24 per cent increase in the local tax levy because of this. That is in just one village.

The reeve of Sophiasburgh, Eleanor Lindsay, is a very fine and intelligent person, a wonderful reeve.

Mr. Haggerty: She must be a relative.

Mr. Taylor: She is a relative of yours, which indicates something. As a good Liberal, the member should want to help her. She says that in her municipality, "the residential mill rate will rise 4.6 mills and the commercial rate 5.2 mills. Cutbacks in some township programs will be required because of the raise. She predicted the county will become a really depressed area because of the problems local farmers are now facing." I will be speaking about farmers in a moment.

Bill Bonter, the deputy reeve of Ameliasburgh, probably the most populated township in the county, told councillors: "We have got to change the system before the system destroys us. You are going to have a tax rebellion like they did in California." Those are pretty strong words; they are pretty upset people.

This is another newspaper clipping from the *Picton Gazette*. The headline reads, "Budget

Increases Disturb School Board Despite Cost Slashes." Let me read a little:

"The problem that has to be solved is how to generate money so that students will not be penalized for living in Prince Edward county," commented trustee Rutter. 'Our ability to pay is being squeezed.' Three of the five per cent increase in the board's budget is due to capital projects totalling \$435,000. This includes \$210,000 for roofing at two schools and \$205,000 for stairwells needed to meet fire inspection recommendations at the high school." There is only one high school in the whole county. Fire regulations require this improvement, and that improvement is a matter of affordability for that school board.

It is somewhat ironic. A news release was put out by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway). This is pretty good, because they did not involve me. It is in my county, but I understand the politics. It is not the Minister of Education and the member for Prince Edward-Lennox; it is the Minister of Education and the MPP next door, the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), who make the release.

Interjection.

Mr. Taylor: The member knows that is not fair.

Mr. Barlow: I do not believe that would happen.

Mr. Taylor: To be honest, I am delighted they did not include me when they announced the grant for these roof and stairwell improvements to meet the fire regulations. One has to have a roof and the fire regulations have to be complied with. The two projects are valued at \$210,000. The problem is that we have to put up the other half, which we cannot afford.

It is like giving us a Cadillac at half price. One cannot afford one of those little foreign imports, a Hyundai Pony or something like that, and they want to give us all this. Anyway, at this juncture I am not going to get into the automotive business. I will probably have something to say about that if I have time when I speak on the trade issue, which is a very important piece of the speech from the throne. We have this announcement, which does not help us very much. All it does is incur further costs that the board cannot afford.

A piece from the Kingston Whig-Standard states that Prince Edward Collegiate Institute has been allocated \$115,000 and Sophiasburgh Central public school \$95,000 for roof replacement. This is the article on the announcement and the problem of affordability. I will not dwell on that any more, but I will say that for a

government that has money, hundreds of millions or billions of dollars for other things, surely it should be able to come up with a few dollars to help a community with a very weak tax base, which has difficulty replacing a roof on a school and making improvements to the stairwell to meet fire regulations. It has to face increases of about 20 per cent in taxes because of the lack of provincial funding.

The trustees put it to me, and again, the chairman of the board, who is a good Liberal—if the government wants to make inroads into my riding, it should be working with these people to try to solve some of these problems and take the credit for it.

Mr. Cureatz: The member should not help the government.

Mr. Taylor: I am elected to serve the people, not to serve myself. If the government can serve the people in some other way, fine. Here we have the chairman of the school board—as a matter of fact, he has run for the Liberal Party at the federal level—having to come with cap in hand to the Minister of Education to try to get a few dollars to help the school board and, at the same time, putting it to me:

"How come you can spend all this money on separate school funding? How come you can have all these special education programs, French language services and all the changes in the teachers' superannuation that will further impact on our ability to raise money, and not have \$500,000 to pull Prince Edward county out of a hole and give those taxpayers some relief?"

I put that to the government because it is a very sound question. I cannot understand why this government cannot address those anomalies in a fair and evenhanded way.

5:30 p.m.

Let us talk about some of these people who will have to pay these taxes. We heard a bit in the speech from the throne about farming—not very much, but there is a mention. I do not have to tell members who are from rural communities or who are farmers—and we have some here today—that the farming industry is going through in Ontario. We are in bad shape, and we do not know what is happening.

We know what the United States is doing and what its response is with respect to the \$20 billion or so it is pouring in to support its grain growers so it can dump its grain on the marketplace. "We have to do this," they say, "because of the unfair trade practices and what is happening in terms of subsidies in the European Community." That

could impact and reduce our prices by as much as 25 per cent.

The victims, who are my constituents, are being asked to pay for tax increases they just cannot afford to pay.

At one time, we were great processors. Think of the canning industry we had; one could not believe the cash crops we canned. Before that we had all the cheese factories. It is sickening to see what has been happening.

I would like to mention one or two other problems we are facing, because I do not think the government understands what we are going through. If it does and is not doing anything, then I say shame on it. If it does not, I want to read an excerpt or two from some of the local papers.

Here is an article from the Kingston Whig-Standard; it is headlined "Last of Prince Edward Pea Processors May Stop Canning this Year." The article states:

"Prince Edward county farmers may find it impossible to obtain contracts for peas for processing this year.

"Waupoos Canning is the only canning factory still processing green peas in the area and proprietor Jay Hepburn says it has become increasingly difficult to compete with Quebec and maritime producers.

"Hepburn says Quebec producers can deliver peas to their processors for nine per cent less than in Ontario, while maritime prices are 16 per cent lower.

"He places the blame for the difference on the Ontario marketing boards which, he says, have kept increasing prices for produce until Ontario has become uncompetitive with other provinces.

"Hepburn said the pea crop in Prince Edward county is not a major one but, since it is possible to process a high volume of peas with low labour costs, the canning of peas helps reduce plant overheads.

"Last year, about 2,500 acres of peas were grown in Prince Edward county.

"Hepburn said Baxter Canning Co. in Bloomfield no longer processes peas and Hyatt Canning of Cherry Valley closed out its plant following last year's harvest.

"Hepburn said the company will have to make a decision well before the end of April, when peas are planted, whether the produce can be processed this year.

"Tomatoes are by far the major canning crop for Waupoos Canning but even here, Hepburn said, the industry is facing serious competition from whole canned tomatoes imported from

Spain, Italy and other countries, imports that are highly subsidized, he said."

We had dozens of canning factories, but now we have one.

I have an article here from the Picton Gazette, and I will read a few lines from it. "County Pea Business is Done" is the headline.

"As far as I am concerned, the pea business in Prince Edward county is done," says local farmer John Anderson of RR 8, Picton, in the wake of news that county processors may not sign contracts for any peas this year because of a surplus of peas left over from last year's bumper crop.

"Baxter Canning of Bloomfield, the county's largest food processor, has decided not to process peas this year, though company president Roy McDannold has told the Gazette that the decision is not firm. Baxter Canning had contracts last year with 35 local growers, some of whom used tomatoes or pumpkins as well as peas. Last fall, Hyatt Canning of Cherry Valley closed its doors, ending contracts with about 30 pea growers. Townline Processing Ltd. of RR 2, Bloomfield, processed both corn and peas last year, but will not be canning peas this year. Harrison Foods Ltd. of RR 4, Picton, processes only corn. Both Townline and Harrison process only their own crops and they have no farmers under contract."

Another headline is: "2,500 Acres of Peas Were Grown Here in '85." The message is that they will not be getting contracts.

We can see the problems there. Mr. Speaker knows something of farming. One gets into peas and has all the equipment. If one is harvesting 2,500 acres, one will need pea harvesters. We are probably talking about something in the area of \$200,000 for a pea harvester. It is very expensive. The demands are such that one practically has to process the peas in the field. They do everything but blanch and deep-freeze them because they shell them right in the field now. We have one farmer with five pea harvesters sitting in his yard.

What are we going to do? These are very real problems which have to be addressed. The government has to decide. Does it want a viable farm industry in this province? If it does, then it has to develop some strong, positive, long-term goals and policies.

Mr. D. W. Smith: We need the member's help.

Mr. Taylor: The government will get my help. These are the decisions the government has to make. It should let the farmers know where they stand.

I will go into a farm-related subject. The township of South Fredericksburgh in the county of Lennox and Addington has an official plan that is being revised and updated. They are very intelligent people; they have an extremely intelligent municipal council.

Mr. Breagh: Loyalist stock.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Some of them are of Loyalist stock. They are well educated and very knowledgeable. They are mostly farmers who are professionals.

One has to be pretty clever today to survive in farming. At one time, if one could do nothing else, people would say, "One can always go into farming." That is not so today. Farming is not just what one does if one cannot do anything else; it is a very complicated and difficult business. One has to be knowledgeable in so many areas: finance, economics, marketing and so on. One has to know what the world conditions are, something about the Chicago market and so on. It is not easy to be a farmer today.

This council in South Fredericksburgh in late fall 1985—we have had an election since—was struggling to develop and put in a new plan. The first Planning Act in Ontario came in during 1946. The fundamental basis of municipal planning is the commitment of the local people. The people have to be involved. They know their land best, their surroundings, the mentality of the people and their hopes and aspirations. They know where they are going. The government should involve and listen to the local people. That is fundamental in local self-rule in government.

The word came out to them: "Look, you are not going to do this. You are not going to have any severances permitted." Before, one could sever three parcels without getting into a subdivision. The word came through that there was no way this new government would permit a single severance on any farm land. The council got very excited.

There could be machinery welding, shop assembly, farm supplies or any number of farm-related businesses for which it is necessary to locate in a convenient place to serve the farm community. However, we have the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell)—I do want to say anything unkind about him; he likes me, I know that, and I would not want to change that relationship—

5:40 p.m.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Taylor: As you can see, Mr. Speaker, he is contentious.

I wrote a letter on November 6, 1985, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre) and to the Minister of Agriculture and Food in regard to the official plan of the township of South Fredericksburgh. I said:

"It is with extreme regret that I will be unable to attend your meeting with council and staff of the township of South Fredericksburgh on Friday noon next. However, I do hope that the meeting arranged at the political level will prove fruitful. The planning process in the final analysis is a political process and accountability rests at that level.

"The acceptability of land use planning in Ontario is dependent upon the agreement of the local inhabitants. Local self-determination is the very foundation of municipal government in a democratic society.

"The imposition of autocratic value judgments at the Queen's Park level confiscates the potential for flexibility at the local level. Ontario is a very large piece of geography and regional differences are great. Values vary, as well, from region to region and from city to farm.

"An official plan is a document, general in nature and intended to guide a municipality's development in an orderly and sensible fashion. Its intention never was to impose in a legalistic sense a rigid and inflexible manifesto on the will of local municipal councils and ratepayers.

"There seems to be some concern that the official plan as proposed (and now existing) has the potential to offend Ontario's food land guidelines because farm-oriented commercial uses and commercial uses serving the immediate area might be permitted if suitable zoning (and severances) were granted. For example, a food processing plant to handle a farm's production, or a farm machinery service centre to service a farmer's machinery are viewed by some people within your ministries as undermining the integrity of policies to protect good agricultural land.

"I urge you to understand the rural view in the management of their lives and their lands. I ask you to permit the local people to govern themselves in local planning matters. I do hope you will favourably consider the township's request."

Mr. Mancini: Who wrote that letter?

Mr. Taylor: I wrote that letter. I had representation from my office at that meeting. The township council was there, and there was a meeting that I understand was very confronta-

tional in nature. Without castigating the integrity of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, whom I have already said is a well-meaning although sometimes misdirected member of the Legislature—I like him very much—he was most adamant that there was no way the good agricultural land of this province could tolerate the kind of situation where a municipality could be permitted to use a parcel of land for a farm-related or commercial use.

The members of the government party should search their consciences. I see one member who was at the turning of the sod for the new Toyota plant only yesterday. How many acres is it? Is it 350 acres of good farm land?

Mr. G. I. Miller: It is 370 acres.

Mr. Taylor: It is 370 acres of good farm land that supposedly is going to be used for an industrial operation that one day will hire up to 1,000 workers over a five- or 10-year period, and yet the minister will not let a municipal council that has planners and intelligent people on the council draft its own official plan to permit this kind of thing in its own municipality. Where is the sense of judgement? Where is the sense of fairness?

We all believe in the need for the preservation of good agricultural land, but I put it to the government again: Either it is going to develop a policy that is going to support our farm community and ensure a viable industry or farmers will have to start selling off their farms and pieces of their farms. The government has an alternative, but it is not going to have to force the farmer into a position where he has to make his land lie fallow for ever because of so-called policy principles of protecting farm land. Some sensible decisions are needed, and again I urge the government to reconsider some of its policies in regard to severances and the food land guidelines.

We are talking about planning. The mind boggles at the Ministry of Housing and the whole planning process. Some of us around here have sat for years on committees examining a new Planning Act. As a matter of fact, it was about 10 years in the process. I do not fault the members of the new Liberal government for that. I was never an apologist for the Conservative government when it was in power either.

Mr. Cureatz: That is true.

Mr. Taylor: Never; I cannot be accused of that. However, when the government develops a system that sucks everything in and lets nothing come out of the other end, then it is time to take another look. That planning process system is

like the Bermuda Triangle: Everything goes in and it disappears. Time frames mean nothing.

Mr. Cureatz: The member for Brampton (Mr. Callahan) knows that.

Mr. Taylor: Sure he knows that. If we want to help the housing stock of this province, we had better start taking a better look at some of the municipalities, the planning process and what they are doing, how they do process, how they extricate unnecessary moneys from persons who want to improve their property or who want to build a house. These things are all being passed on to the home owner.

There are municipalities that are confiscating from a developer as much money in imposts as it would have taken at one time to build a house. That has been going on for a while, and it is getting worse. I urge the government to look into it. As a concerned representative of the citizenry of my constituency, I ask them to look into that, because these moneys—

Interjections.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I hope you will bring the House to order.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member is having trouble being heard.

Mr. Taylor: It is so important that we not get municipalities that are presumably acting in the public interest in the quickly developing areas. This is where it is happening, not in the little communities like those that some of us represent, where we are glad to have development. We open our arms to someone who wants to build a little business, a little factory or a house; we are anxious to help. But in these rapidly growing communities we have a process that is often tantamount to a skin game: "How much can we take away from you?" It is a quid pro quo.

5:50 p.m.

As a matter of fact, as a lawyer, the member for Brampton, the successor of the past Premier, would know the courts accused one municipality of municipal corporate piracy. That is very strong language for a court to use, but it may be time to look at the processes so that we can get affordable housing into the hands of the people who need it. We have to cut through the red tape and clear the underbrush and the jungle of inconvenience and obstacles that so many emanations of the crown in municipal and other forums engage in before a person can get a simple permit to build a home.

I put that to the members. It is a tremendous avenue of opportunity for this government to explore and to try to simplify, so that we can get

Ontario on the march and get people the shelter they need at affordable prices. We must cut the price by cutting these unnecessary imposts that are all factored into the mortgage. One can imagine what a \$30,000 impost would be when it is factored into a mortgage for 25 years. These things are making houses unaffordable. The government has an excellent opportunity to do something constructive. It should be trying to win the favour of the people of Ontario. I invite it to do that.

Producing the residential development that is sorely needed in Ontario requires boldness. It requires a plan, some initiative and enterprise and a commitment.

I have been expressing only a few of my concerns. I was going to talk about Ontario Hydro, but I will not today. I will merely mention it. There is opportunity for change. I am concerned about the rural hydro user. The large industrial users negotiate their own prices for electricity in this province. The public utilities commissions of the urban municipalities buy power in bulk and can pass along power at a lower rate than we can in the rural areas. Who do the rural folk have to look after their interests? Who is looking after the sale of electricity from Hydro directly to the rural consumers? Where is the person in between who is an advocate of the rural consumers?

It is too bad the Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) is not here, because I would put to him that he should take on the task of seeing that Hydro continues to close the gap between the rate being charged to the city consumers and the rate being charged to the rural consumers. That gap is tremendous. The previous government attempted to do something to narrow the gap, but it has not happened. That is important.

At one time, I suggested an alternative to these ongoing inquiries into Ontario Hydro that sap the strength of that fine organization and its components. The people who run Hydro are top-notch. There is a veritable university of talent. I do not deny that. Some years ago, I suggested to a previous government that, instead of the incessant committees of inquiry, it might better follow the route of outside management audits to assess future needs, the development of future sites and the course Hydro is taking. There is ample illustration of that in jurisdictions south of the border. I will not pursue that in detail today, but I give this government an opportunity to pursue that avenue of accountability for Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Mancini: The member was once the Minister of Energy, was he not?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, I was the Minister of Energy at one time.

Mr. Mancini: I am sorry the member did not do anything about it.

Mr. Taylor: I made some statements. As a matter of fact, I was not very—

Mr. Mancini: The member was fired.

Mr. Taylor: All right. The member throws up some things that I said I was not very happy with.

Mr. G. I. Miller: You were right.

Mr. Taylor: I was right. Indeed, I was right. I was concerned about the government and how it was—

Mr. Cureatz: Let us talk about corridors.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member would speak to the chair and there would not be so many interjections.

Mr. Taylor: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Now that I am speaking to you, my concern with regard to Ontario Hydro has been raised. We heard about the corridors of power. I am often misquoted, but it was a speech I made some years ago; as a matter of fact, I dug up a copy of it because of something I had read in a synopsis of the Macdonald commission report. I know members have read that multivolume report by the royal commission looking into Canada's economic matters, which is referred to as the Macdonald report; there is a synopsis of it here.

When I was looking at that—and I am going to touch on trade in a moment—it struck me that in the foreword, Donald Macdonald stated: "The executive branch"—and he is talking about the federal executive branch—"has become too dominant. Power must be returned to Parliament." I looked at that and said, "My God, can you imagine?" When was this thing written, November 1984? I dug up an old speech, and now that the member for Durham East mentions it—

Mr. Cureatz: I remember it very well.

Mr. Taylor: I do not apologize for it, and I will just refresh the members' memories. I said: "Unfortunately, responsive and responsible political power and parliamentary democracy is fast breaking down in this beautiful land of ours. It is all too obvious in Ottawa"—and that is what brought this to my attention—"it is becoming more apparent in Ontario.

"Legislative overload and abdication of authority has contributed to the transfer of political power to the bureaucracy. Ministries are manipulated by deputies in clever marionette-like manoeuvres, who in turn are managed by the Premier's mandarins with only the semblance of

power at the elected level. The charade becomes more sophisticated as government becomes more involved in the day-to-day lives of the people.

"I say this as a concerned citizen committed to the democratic process who has walked the so-called corridors of power only to be mugged in the back alleys of bureaucracy."

I know something of which I speak, and I do not apologize for what I have said in the past; I reiterate it today for the benefit of the members here.

Mr. Cureatz: The new members.

Mr. Gordon: Members on the other side should take note of that.

Mr. Cureatz: They have fallen into the same trap.

Mr. Taylor: We now have a Liberal-New Democratic Party collective. It is a relationship which may influence the policy of the Liberal Party somewhat, I hope for not too much longer. It is my understanding that the government has discharged most of its mandate forwarded by the New Democratic Party.

6 p.m.

In that regard, I want to finish on the note of free trade. I found it very interesting in this throne speech that we have a government that is developing a posture of opposition to free trade, and encouraging that opposition, while at the same time promoting the development of freer trade between Canada and other nations.

We have a government that has opened a new office in Singapore during its regime. It has announced its intention to become more forceful and aggressive in the United States and to represent Ontario's interests in Washington, if that is at all possible. I suspect there are some diplomatic problems in the province placing a representative in Washington. I suspect there is some flak from Ottawa in that regard. It is too close to home. It is a government that has announced an office in South Korea and a new Agent General for Japan and that is indicating a stronger presence and presumably an office in mainland China.

This is a government that is responding to world conditions. I do not fault it for that. I am not being critical in the sense of being negative. What I do put to it is, "Come on out from behind the barn and say it like it is." Mr. Speaker, you do that. You speak plainly and clearly. I know your government would like to emulate you. It should, because either the government is going to pursue aggressively Canada's role in an international marketplace and do so with the assistance of

these foreign offices and with trade missions and by assisting local industry or it is not. If it is, we can see that foremost on the government's mind—I see it in the speech from the throne—is the need for this government, this province and industry to be internationally competitive.

We have to be internationally competitive if we are going to survive in an economic sense. The government knows that. It is implicit in the speech from the throne, and I wholeheartedly subscribe to it. It is time that it not carry on with the charade of placating its New Democratic Party colleagues.

Sitting over there is a very fine member who is chairman of the select committee on economic affairs. I had the privilege of serving under that member. An interim report was tabled with this House. I do not have time to go through it, but directionally this report is supportive of a more aggressive and competitive trade policy for Ontario. We have areas of concern, whether they be in farming, agriculture or other areas. We have soft spots in our economy that need special consideration. We have to consider the auto pact and some of these matters. There are special features, but directionally this committee subscribes to enhanced trade, to freer trade and to diminishing trade barriers, the tariff and nontariff barriers.

I was very disappointed with the New Democratic Party's dissenting view. I would like to quote from it, because I was a member of the committee and I felt offended when I read this dissenting view. In part, this is what the NDP said:

"The Liberal and Conservative members of the committee in our view have done a grave disservice not only to the people of Ontario but to the country as a whole. Indeed, it is hard to believe that we all sat in the same rooms and listened to the same evidence and submissions, because the majority has ignored the recommendations of all the labour organizations and many of the industries that appeared before us."

I do not know how one interprets that statement. To me, there is an inference in that statement that the Conservative and Liberal members ignored the preponderance of evidence which was against negotiation. The preponderance of evidence was for negotiation. I think that is being twisted.

We have excellent support staff. This is a summary of 50 major submissions. With regard to the question of whether there should be free trade in those negotiations, 37 of those 50 major submissions said yes, 11 said no and two were

undecided. Is that not something? With that, the Conservative and Liberal members of that committee were accused of being oblivious to the representations made to that committee and, presumably, insensitive to the concerns addressed to us by a broad spectrum of people, industry and special interest groups.

Of the 11 that said no, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was one. What it wanted was a status quo. It was rightly concerned that it might prejudice the supply management in certain of our commodity sectors, so it wanted to leave things the way they were. There were other representatives of the agricultural community who were in favour of free trade. The Ontario Cattlemen's Association, for example, was supportive of free trade.

The United Steelworkers of America said no. The Brewers' Association of Canada said no. The Communist Party of Canada said no. The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, the boxboard industry, said no. The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of Canada said no. The Ontario Federation of Labour and the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association said no. Northern Breweries Ltd. said no. B. F. Goodrich said no. Those all said no. Basically, organized labour and some others were concerned about the fallout from free trade.

What does the New Democratic Party say about this? I do not want to be harsh on the NDP, because I would like to see it stronger. If it is stronger, it will then take the Liberal Party's votes away from it and give us a better chance. Seriously, I am concerned that the NDP and organized labour have a very short view of this situation, which in the long run will impact very severely, very harshly and very adversely on the Canadian community and on Ontario business.

6:10 p.m.

What does it say? What is its answer? It says: "Canada needs an industrial strategy that reduces our dependence on foreign ownership and the exploitation of our resources. Rather than trade liberalization, we should be aiming for greater self-reliance, by focusing on import replacement, greater Canadian content requirements and putting more value added in our resources by manufacturing finished products here in Canada.

"The real issue is jobs. Only through a coherent industrial strategy can we generate the new jobs that Canada needs. A bilateral free trade agreement with the US is not a job strategy.

"We hoped that the committee would treat its mandate seriously." I am reading selectively, I want members to know, because I do not want to

read the whole report. "Unfortunately, the ideological biases of our Liberal and Conservative colleagues have got in the way."

Imagine that. Here we have a minority view that I am afraid is quite doctrinaire.

Mr. Foulds: And the majority view of the people of the province.

Mr. Taylor: If I could give the member some advice, his party would do much better if it got away from its ironclad, doctrinaire philosophical views of institutionalized labour and started looking to the interests of the common working man. It should look to the ordinary citizens and not be chained by its strong philosophies; it would do much better.

It is caught there with the institutions and the interests of the labour bosses. It has to get out of the grips of the labour bosses and into the hands of the common people, and then it will relate to the common people's interests, those of the ordinary working man who is striving so hard to put a roof over his head, put a rug on the floor and pay off the mortgage. That is what the New Democratic Party should be thinking about. Never mind getting tied into those fixed positions of doctrinaire socialism.

That is just a gratuitous piece of advice, because that party is going to need it when the next election comes around.

Mr. Foulds: It is worth every cent we are not paying.

Mr. Taylor: They are going to need it.

Mr. Breagh: Do not stop.

Mr. Taylor: I will not. As a matter of fact, I have a few briefs here from labour, now that they have encouraged me.

This is from the Ontario Federation of Labour. I will read a line or two from each, just to show what I mean. This is a brief dated July 31, 1985, to the select committee on economic affairs. This is current stuff, good stuff. We read on page 5: "Ultimately Canada must reject the game of international competition because it is self-defeating." Here we have the Ontario Federation of Labour saying Canada must reject the game of international competition; do not be an international competitor. Imagine that.

The United Auto Workers—do members want to hear something?

Mr. Breagh: The member is really thorough. He read one sentence out of an entire brief.

Mr. Taylor: That is all the time I could give those members. Those people are oppressive.

Mr. Breagh: He can take all the time he wants.

Mr. Taylor: Let us hear from the United Auto Workers Union of Canada. Here is the same point; I am just talking about the same point:

"We should not be talking about enhanced trade but of enhanced Canadian content to reduce our import dependency....How can we do more research and engineering work? How can we process more of our resources before they are exported? How can we build more of the machinery we use to get access to these resources? How do we develop a manufacturing base?"

Questions, but that is where it leaves it: up in the air. No wonder our support staff who tried to distil this did not know what the result was.

Here is something by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of Canada. August 26, 1985, is the date of this:

"One consequence of the drive towards international competitiveness is that every gain won by workers in the last 100 years is under attack." This is the concern. It goes on to say: "In the end, all these actions have but one objective, namely, to shift more resources, power and rights to capital at the expense of workers. This is what international competitiveness is all about, a reverse auction in which workers are being asked to compete to see who can give away the most in order to attract business."

In other words, keep fighting the need to be competitive. Do not be competitive. Take in each other's washing for a living. Build a Fortress Canada. Is this the answer for the future of one's country? Does one have no confidence at all in one's country?

Here is another one from the central executive committee of the Communist Party of Canada, July 24, 1985. It is the same thing. We get the same old line. This is their option: "Our option, however, rejects big business as a vehicle for change in Canada, makes the needs of Canada's people and world peace its starting point and proposes measures which will get at the root cause of Canada's problems. These measures must include:

"1. Nationalization under democratic control of Canada's natural resources and the creation and expansion of state-owned secondary industries that will process and manufacture Canada's vast wealth and raw materials in Canada.

"2. Nationalization under democratic control of all transnationals, the banks and other financial institutions.

"3. Stopping the export of capital, whether Canadian or US.

"4. Foreign exchange controls and any other measures that may be necessary to counter foreign, especially US, retaliation."

It is this kind of stuff. The common thread is that we have to protect what we have now. I do not blame people for protecting what they have. Unions have worked hard in this country to elevate the status of the working man to ensure a good living wage. I do not complain. Why would I? That is great. However, we have something other than self-interest.

There is a fear with all these gains, with high wages and benefits and so on in certain selected industries with certain strong and powerful unions—not the general masses, not the public that puts governments in office—"We have to look after our membership. What we have gained will be under attack if we have to compete in an international marketplace."

We know the marketplace today is international. We are not talking about a domestic market. Canada has 25 million people. Canada is one of two or three western nations with fewer than 100 million in its domestic market; Australia and New Zealand are the others.

Mr. Foulds: What about Sweden?

Mr. Taylor: I am glad the member raised Sweden. Sweden is one of the most highly developed countries in social programs and has always been a free trader. Look at Sweden; it is a free trader. The member's party opposes free trade.

Mr. Foulds: What is its domestic market?

Mr. Taylor: Its domestic market is about half ours.

The Acting Speaker: Ignore the interjections.
6:20 p.m.

Mr. Taylor: The point I am making is that we have a certain element of self-interest, and that is only human. However, that element of self-interest is going to sacrifice the future of our province and of our country if we do not take a broader view. That is why I commended the throne speech in terms of a broader view.

The other motive may be that the philosophy of the unions, as embraced by the New Democratic Party and to which the New Democratic Party is to some degree enchaind and which lessens its chances of election, is to increase state control. It will decrease state control once one gets into the international marketplace and has to compete with other nations.

There are those two propositions. I challenge the members to debate those. They are the propositions that impel them to take that position

of Fortress Canada. I think they are missing the boat, because it is vital.

Canada has a domestic market of 25 million. The US has 235 million people, and the European Community has 270 million people. We can include in the European Community the total free trading bloc. Now that Portugal and Spain are coming into the community it will be a trading bloc of 350 million. Japan has more than 100 million people.

Then we have a trading country such as Canada, and Ontario is three times more dependent on trade than is Japan. Look at Canada's gross national product. One half of our gross national product is dependent on exports. In Ontario, 40 per cent of our gross provincial product is dependent on exports. What about the United States? It is a massive country. Exports are important, and look at how they are suffering right now. Only 13 per cent of their gross national product is dependent on exports. We see how vital trade is to this country and to this province of ours.

Trade is a two-way thing. We cannot say, "We are going to keep you people out with all of your commodities, but we are going to export ours." Who is going to buy ours? The New Democratic Party says—I do not want to be unkind to the members—that at the same as we export, we should not have a goal of being internationally competitive. How can we do that? That is a problem that faces this country.

The world is diminishing; post-war experience has contracted the globe. There is the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other world institutions. There is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the United Nations. There are now so many world organizations, and with our system of transportation and communications, we have created a single global marketplace. Nothing is parochial any more; I mentioned that earlier in my remarks.

Ontario has a population of nine million people, 2.5 million of whom were not born in Canada. It is cosmopolitan. A tremendous contribution has been made to our province. It has given us a broader vision. It has enabled us to know people better, to get involved in world affairs and to look outwards.

We must have more confidence in ourselves as Canadians. We can compete with anybody. We have to learn that we must have that confidence. We are not hewers of wood and drawers of water. We have the highest of skills. We have great technology. We have the industry, the strength, the energy and the enterprise. Why do we not get

out there? Are we afraid to compete? I am not afraid to compete. I do not see why a highly industrialized nation such as Canada should be afraid to get out and compete with the rest of the world in the international marketplace.

The government should take a stand on this. We know free trade is not going to happen tomorrow. It will be phased in, probably over a period of 10 years. It will be phased in unevenly so that advantage will be given to Canada. It probably will take twice as long for Canada to be phased in as the US, so we will have advantage of their markets before they have free advantage of ours.

Considerations will be made. There will be areas where free trade cannot be worked out. I suggest agriculture is one of the areas that will not work. Probably the resource industry is another.

Let us pursue this, however. The US is not going to come to us with cap in hand, saying, "Here, we want this." If we do not protect our existing markets—and this is the greatest fear arising from the rampant protectionism in the US—if we are cut off from those markets as we could be, along with other foreign countries, we could suffer very seriously. We could have massive unemployment.

I have figures here, but I do not have time to present them today. I will not take more of the members' time. We have reports, we have had research done and we have the computer models of what will happen in Ontario if we fall victim to US protectionism. If we cannot ensure our present markets in the US, then we will have massive unemployment and we will suffer. There are 300 or 400 bills in Congress that are protectionist in nature.

While we are the biggest trading partner of the US, in terms of total trade we are not all that significant or that important. However, there is no reason that we cannot negotiate a sensible bilateral contract with the US to protect our interests and enhance our opportunities in the commercial field.

Through the additional trade offices the Liberal government has announced, we can promote a greater share of the world markets. Southeast Asia is a land of tremendous opportunity. Some people have said the economic centre of gravity has shifted. It was in London, England, 200 years ago; 100 years ago it was in New York City; now they say it is shifting to Tokyo. We have to be more aggressive in southeast Asia. The penetration through foreign offices is important. We have to pursue the

multilateral trade agreements through GATT and at the same time do what we can to negotiate a fair and equitable enhanced trade relationship with the US.

It is up to the government to speak loudly and clearly about its position. It has a duty to inform the people of Ontario before they are misled about the alternatives and the impact on the future of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you very much for your patience and guidance in this address. You have been most kind and tolerant. You have kept some of the unruly members in order.

Mr. Cureatz: I will be very brief in my comments. I know the time is running short.

First of all, may I compliment my honourable colleague for a very well presented and logical presentation on the speech from the throne. I remind all members, including the new backbenchers, that the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor) has served in various ministries in one capacity or another. He was the Minister of Energy and was always receptive to all members of this Legislature when problems with his ministry evolved. I want to compliment him publicly and thank him for the fine job he did in that portfolio.

His comments and compliments about his own riding are true to form and true to various discussions we have had from time to time. I have been to his area, through the lovely riding of Prince Edward-Lennox and down to the sandy beach area, which is such a tourist attraction. I have been to his modest residence and to his

riding office. With his wife and lovely family, he has done an admirable job of representing that area.

I could centre on a number of aspects of the member's discussion, but during the few seconds I have left I want to bring to everyone's attention a concern I have upon which he has focused. The chairman of the school board in his area, a prominent Liberal, has indicated with disgust that the member for Prince Edward-Lennox is responsible for the high increase in school taxes in his community. Indeed, the chairman of my school board, the Northumberland and Newcastle Board of Education, has gone to the various municipalities, Port Hope for one, and demanded in a tyrannical way that the councillors immediately start collecting the very high, 16 per cent increase in school taxes because the school board chairman demands it and wants the money. I say to her and to my Liberal colleagues, that is no way to run a school board. I am ashamed of her comments in that matter. If she wants extra funds, she should be going to her Liberal colleagues.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time is up.

Mr. Cureatz: I am disgusted by her attitude with respect to raising funds for the Northumberland and Newcastle school board.

On motion by Mr. Foulds, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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No. 11

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Thursday, May 8, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 8, 1986

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Martel: I thought the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) would stay to hear this. It is going to be good stuff.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We have a House leaders' meeting.

Mr. Martel: He will hear it down there then. I will not bother talking about the throne speech. There was not much in it. I will dismiss that very quickly.

Mr. Bernier: Tell us something new.

Mr. Martel: I am going to tell my friend about a trip I just finished making. I took five weeks, went to 13 cities and received more than 200 briefs.

Mr. Bernier: At whose expense? Who paid for it?

Mr. Martel: Not that member. I did not even get paid, unlike some members who were sitting on committees.

I visited 13 cities, received at least 200 briefs, interviewed 200 or 300 people and obtained the documents surrounding health and safety that we are going to use during the next couple of months to show that the Ministry of Labour in the preceding government and in the present government has virtually destroyed the use of Bill 70. We might as well not have it in Ontario today, because Bill 70 does not protect workers. What the Tories did with that bill was a disgrace, and the Liberals have continued to do precisely the same. The bill does not protect working people.

In 1982, I made a similar tour. The act was relatively new then, and companies had not learned how to ignore the act; nor did they know the Ministry of Labour had no intention of enforcing the act. That has continued down to the present. We have had two governments, both of

which have enforced the Occupational Health and Safety Act in the same way, which is to allow companies to do whatever they want.

During the next couple of months, we are going to document many examples. We saw two in the House yesterday, when I called the Ministry of Labour office at 400 University Avenue the swamp. The inspectors themselves call it the swamp, because everything gets filtered in, it sinks in the quagmire and nothing comes out. We saw that yesterday with respect to two fatalities that occurred last September in this province. It took seven or eight months even to decide whether there would be prosecutions.

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) got up in his place yesterday and said it was a very complex issue.

A member of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was working on a seven-foot culvert by himself. The ministry did not provide a safety jacket for him, and he fell in the water and drowned. There were three contraventions of sections 35, 36 and 37 of the construction safety regulations; yet the minister and the legal department say it is very complex to sort out whether they should prosecute. There is something crazy about that.

What made it difficult is that MTC wanted to appeal the orders by the inspector. The ministry does not want to provide safety jackets for people working around excessive quantities of water in which they may drown. That is what they are going to appeal. Can members imagine it? An agency of the crown is going to do this. If they get away with it, what will the public say?

It is complex, the minister says. It is anything but complex; it is simple. The ministry violated the act. We do not apply the Highway Traffic Act that way in Ontario. If people get caught half snooted up, going down the street in Toronto, they are put in the can. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, on the other hand, 80,000 orders were issued last year and virtually no one was prosecuted. I will come back to the figures.

I remember my friends across the way being irritated when their task force on health had a civil servant follow the members around for days on end. When I went out to start this task force,

that is what the Ministry of Labour did to me. I did not mind. I said to the minister, "I do not mind, as long as you first do not go back and try to clean up those plants but forget the real problems." That is what the former Minister of Labour, Ramsay, did. When I toured last time, the Ministry of Labour did not deal with the problems of the act. They cleaned up the plants where people came forward and did not touch the act.

When we had been out on the road for only four days, OPSEU, which represents the inspectors, made a presentation to us. What really irritated me is that the inspectors were given a letter from 400 University Avenue telling them not to speak to me under any circumstances. That is what they were told. I have a copy of the letter. That is unconscionable. The minister himself sends someone around from his ministry, and then somebody on his staff sends a letter out to the inspectors, saying, "Don't you dare talk to Martel."

They did talk to me; they did it late at night. That is how I come to know what the inspectors, in that department at least, think of the Ministry of Labour at 400 University Avenue. They call 400 University Avenue the swamp. Everything gets fed in and nothing comes out. It is like Okefenokee. I say to my friend the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) it just sinks in a quagmire or quicksand and stays there. It never comes out; it gets lost. That is the first thing we heard about from the inspectors.

10:10 a.m.

I have been trying to point out that what is going on out there is ridiculous. Companies still have advance notice of when things are going to occur. Both the workers and the inspectors said to us that when an inspection is going to occur, it is strange how many bosses are running around with an armful of masks, hearing plugs and glasses. How does a company know when to put them out on a given day? It is obvious. There has been a tipoff. "Somebody is coming. Clean up the place." It still goes on. My friend Russell Ramsay-Wrye says, "No." However, his inspectors and the workers in at least 200 plants tell me it does.

The new rules say the union has to be notified too. I said to the workers, "Under these new instructions, who has been told?" There has not been one yet. I know the minister has put out the instructions. However, there is a carryover from the past regime. The old regime said, "We will not prosecute." That is still in place in the new ministry.

I learned another interesting thing. One of the inspectors came to see us late at night. He said: "I can recall recently suggesting that this company be prosecuted. The company did not talk to me. They picked up the telephone and phoned 400 University Avenue. Somebody at the top"—I know who it is, but I will not name him; I will save that for another day—"picked up the telephone, phoned the district office," where I was speaking to the inspector, "and said, 'Look, drop that nonsense about the charges; go out there and mediate this situation.''" That is what is going on.

I do not know another act where we mediate 80,000 violations. It is certainly not the Highway Traffic Act. However, we mediate the Occupational Health and Safety Act. We are chicken in this society. We think workers are expendable and that they can be killed and maimed. Last year our accident rate went up by 40,000. We now have 420,000 or 440,000 compensable accidents a year. I remember last fall, sitting in here when we introduced the stuff on the Highway Traffic Act and getting tougher on violations by drunken drivers. I agreed with it and I believe in it. It was put in effect. There were 80,000 injuries on the highway last year. With 440,000 accidents in the work place, we want to mediate the act.

I would like to know why there is the double standard. Why can people get slaughtered in the work place, but we are going to get tough about the highways? I do not think I am asking for something unfair in asking that workers be protected. I think they have that right. I said that the wrong way. I think they have to have the right and the authority to protect themselves. Bill 70 does not give them a jot of protection. They are merely consultants in a game of chess. I will come to it in a moment. They have no power and no authority; they cannot even protect themselves.

Let me say what else the inspector said to me. There are cyclical inspections. I tried to get this across the other day, but it is very difficult in question period or in a 30-second statement. Cyclical inspections occur every 12, 18 or 36 months at certain companies, depending on whether they are good, bad or moderate actors. That is gone. They have now put them under a code 99, whatever that means. In plain layman's language, it means those companies that come under code 99 will no longer be inspected.

The 18-month and 36-month inspections have gone, and that is by order. Verbally, the 12-month inspection has gone. Then there is another little part of the regulation that says there

are routine inspections. Routine inspections are to make sure that the internal responsibility system works and that the regulations are being followed. If that is what it is, what are the cyclical inspections? Cyclical inspections are the routine inspections, and the routine inspections have been eliminated. The only time there is going to be an inspection is when there is a fatality, a serious injury or a work stoppage.

My friends to my right destroyed the act. In 1981, there were 235 or 245 inspectors, and they allowed the number to drop to 205. The Liberals are going to build it back to within 11 of what it used to be. Here we are, seven years after the act came in, and we have finished up by hiring 11 fewer inspectors than we had in 1981. We are really committed to protecting the workers of Ontario when there are more than 200,000 work places and just 235 or 245 inspectors.

At the same time, members heard me make a comparison between the number of accidents on the highway and the number of industrial accidents and diseases. There were 80,000 accidents or injuries on the highways last year and 440,000 in the work place. We have 15,000 or 20,000 policemen in the province and we have 225 or 235 inspectors in the work place. It does not make much sense, does it?

The government allows mayhem in the work place because workers are expendable. On the highway and in the municipalities, we have 15,000 to 20,000 police to protect the citizens and we have 235 inspectors to protect people in the work place. There is something sick about what we do to the working class.

Let me tell members how the act works. I am going to tell them about the internal responsibility system, and this is the crux. That is not in the act, by the way. The Tories never thought to put it in the act, so it is not in there. It works under what is called the internal responsibility system, except that it is not in there.

The theory is that labour appoints so many workers to the health and safety committee and management appoints so many. Together they go around and tour the plant and decide what has to be changed. That is wonderful. They make a decision as a committee and then it goes to upper management to decide whether it is going to implement the change. If upper management says, "No, we are not going to implement the change," nothing happens. That is the end for the workers.

There is one little section I will come to later on, but that is where a worker puts his neck and his job on the line and gets fired. The Ministry of

Labour has yet to prosecute one person for firing someone under section 24 of the act. That is the theory of internal responsibility, but it is not in the act, not explained and not written down.

If a problem arises in the plant, it is difficult even to deal with the problem because who is going to inspect? If it is not a serious accident, the union representatives are not called in. If a worker loses half his hand, that is not critical; so the union representatives do not inspect. They are not called in, nor are they allowed. If a worker loses half his foot, that is not critical enough either. Can you imagine a worker losing half a foot, but the worker representatives on the health and safety committee cannot investigate to develop policy that will prevent it from happening again?

If the representatives take a chance and go there, the workers are fired, suspended, demoted or not allowed to work overtime. Every type of intimidation possible goes on in the work place. That is the second problem with the internal responsibility system.

10:20 a.m.

The first problem is that if upper management chooses not to make the change, it is not made and the workers have no power to force the change. The second problem is that if there is a serious accident, and accidents are supposed to be reported, if it is not critical, the representatives are not called in. The definition in the act is "critical." What is critical? Does the worker have to lose a certain amount of blood? I do not know how they measure the quantity of blood the worker has to lose before the representatives are allowed to come to investigate the work.

What else happens on this internal responsibility system? Management decides it is going to have the minutes typed up. Management is constantly changing the discussion of what went on at a meeting and what the minutes are. There are great battles about whether the minutes reflect what was discussed at the health and safety meeting or what management wants in them.

The interesting thing about the inspectors is, as long as an item stays on the monthly report, the Ministry of Labour does not get involved. An item about ventilation can appear for 18 months, 20 months or 24 months. As long as it appears in the minutes of the meeting, even as an unresolved problem, the workers continue to work in conditions that cry out for a new ventilation system. When I was out for five weeks, I said to the workers: "Take the item off. The Ministry of Labour inspectors are using you. Take it off and

tell them it is an unresolvable issue and the Ministry of Labour staff is going to have to deal with it. As long as it stays, they are not going to."

What else happens in the internal responsibility system? As I said, some of the workers are to be chosen by management and some by labour. We have a company we recently turned in to the Ministry of Labour. The father owns the company and is head of the occupational health and safety committee for management. The worker representative is his son. I do not know who chose his son, but it is not a violation of the act.

I can tell the Minister of Labour, as I used to tell Russell Ramsay, there are literally thousands of violations that can be put before the Ministry of Labour, but the ministry will not issue an order that leads to a court trial, except where the worker is at fault. The ministry is so fair that it always intrigues me. Somewhere in this mess I have before me is a list. It does not matter. I will tell the members what happens.

If an inspector walks on to a construction site and a worker is not wearing his safety glasses, he is fined on the spot. The amount of the fine is already determined at \$58. If he is not wearing his hard hat or his safety boots, he is also fined on the spot. He is given a ticket, which leads to a conviction. Management had 80,000 orders against it last year. In the industrial branch alone, there were 50,000 orders, 10 per cent reissued and 50 fines on convictions. On the other hand, workers are fined right on the spot, and it was the government that started the process.

Mr. Warner: The Tories did it for years.

Mr. Martel: For seven years. There were on-the-spot fines to workers compared with 50,000 orders, 10 per cent of which had to be reissued, which meant a second violation, and 50 convictions; so one tenth of one per cent might be convicted. Now the minister is telling me some company is going to be worried. It is cheaper for companies to ignore the Occupational Health and Safety Act than to enforce it.

Mr. Shymko: And the Liberals are doing nothing about it.

Mr. Martel: The Tories did not do anything for seven years.

Mr. Shymko: The New Democrats are propping them up and they are not doing anything about it.

Mr. Martel: There is going to be a change in the act.

Mr. Warner: The Tories never cared a jot about workers' safety.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: So my friend the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) can get it straight, yesterday the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) did his little rant about occupational health. He used to be in the Ministry of Labour. He was a parliamentary assistant at one time. He was in there and did not do a thing. In his speech in February in committee, and it can be checked in Hansard, he said the Ministry of Labour was being too tough on companies. He cannot have it both ways. That is not three months ago. That is how those people have been committed to health and safety. We are trying to get the minister to clean out some of the—I am not sure of the appropriate word—junk that is down at 400 University Ave.

Mr. Andrewes: Swamp.

Mr. Martel: Swamp.

There is the internal responsibility system. Management, by the construction safety regulations, is supposed to present to the health and safety committee within four days a report of every accident. This does not happen. That is a violation of the act. I ask why, when there is violation after violation, the minister takes the position of "Well, that is fine; you can break the regulations."

If the ministry does not convict them, if it does not charge them, what is the purpose of having regulations? If the regulations say the company has to give to the health and safety committee the accident report, within four days of an accident, why does the ministry not enforce that part of the regulations? I cannot understand it. Maybe I am obtuse.

Mr. Shymko: Fire the officials.

Mr. Martel: Some should go. I am convinced that until we do a housecleaning down there, nothing is going to happen. They have to go.

I said to the representatives of the health and safety committee, "How do you feel trying to protect your fellow workers?" They said, "It is worse than any job we have ever had because of the intimidation." I am going to give a list in a few minutes of how workers are treated and fired and the fact that Ministry of Labour in seven and a half years has never once laid a charge for intimidation and so on against a company, even though it has written examples. Not one.

Let me give members the first example of a violation, which is from Canadian General Electric in Peterborough. If members recall, I said the internal responsibility system indicates there will be equal numbers of representatives

from labour and from management on the health and safety committee. That is the intent. It is not written in the act, but it is there.

CGE has six people on its health and safety committee, three from labour and three from management. There are 2,700 employees in that plant, and the committee gets part of a day a month to do an audit. The plant is one city block in size.

The union has said for years: "Look, we do not have enough time to investigate. There just are not enough hours in the short time we have before us." The company resolved its problem. It appointed a bunch of hacks and flacks of its choosing and made some new committees, but not in keeping with the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Not at all. These are people they wine and dine and for whom they buy theatre tickets.

For four and a half years, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America have been trying to get the Minister of Labour to stop that. For four years—does the member for High Park-Swansea hear that?

Mr. Shymko: Yes.

Mr. Martel: For four years, they have said: "Look, this is not the intent of the act. You cannot appoint a bunch of hack guys." The company has appointed them. The union appoints its representation and the company appoints its. In this case, the company has appointed between 120 and 150 people to serve on subcommittees. The company appointed them. They run counter totally to the main health and safety committee under the regulations. For four and a half years, the union has been trying to get that stopped because that is not the intent of the act. They do not give the health and safety committee more than half a day a month to visit a plant that has 2,700 employees. They let them appoint their own committee as management, 120 to 150 people to work on the floor, most of whom are wine and dined, given tickets to the theatre and bought dinner.

10:30 a.m.

I say to the Minister of Labour I received the letters and I remember bringing this stuff into the House question by question. However, four and a half years later, Mr. Melinyshyn is saying, "It does not contravene the act because it is not in the act." We know what the intent of the act was. The Ministry of Labour knows what the intent of the act was, but the intent of this company is to bypass the appropriate health and safety committee. In four and a half years, the union has not got 400 University Ave. to move on it.

It goes on day after day. There is this great internal responsibility system that does not work anywhere. Interestingly, one of the best briefs we had presented to us during the tour was by Inco. People have heard me malign Inco on occasion over the years, but in 1975, Inco, with its union, decided it had to do something about its health and safety program. Injuries were rampant: 13.8 for every 100 employees. They signed an agreement with the union. In fact, in the last contract, they have 13 paid health and safety inspectors from the union who do nothing but go around.

They are now down to 2.8 accidents per 100. It works. They have doubled production per man in that time and reduced their accident rate by 500 per cent. It can be done, except that most of the companies are not interested in doing it.

Mr. Warner: One has to believe it; neither is the government.

Mr. Martel: My friend is right; neither is the government. It does not matter which government.

I do not want to disillusion my friend the member for High Park-Swansea. I want to tell him the figures up to March 31, 1984. His party was still in power then. I have the figures with me.

Mr. Shymko: I was just a back-bencher.

Mr. Martel: It is always easy to say, "I was just a back-bencher," or, "It is just Russell Ramsay-Wrye."

These figures are from my friend in the industrial health and safety branch. In 1983-84, there were 48,000 orders issued, 4,800 reissued and 67 convictions.

Mr. Shymko: Where did you get those figures?

Mr. Martel: I have them. There were 48,881 orders issued and 4,876 repeated, and every order is a violation of the act. There were 88 cases prosecuted and there were 67 convictions.

Mr. Warner: Those are the known violations.

Mr. Martel: Yes. These are only the known violations.

In Ontario, of all the companies with unions, only 63 per cent have health and safety committees. In other registered companies without unions, and that is the vast majority, only 32 per cent have health and safety committees.

The act says the act will be posted and there will be a health and safety committee in every work place with 20 workers or more. Why is there not a conviction every time an inspector walks into a plant where there is not a health and

safety committee? Why is there not a conviction every time he walks in and the act is not posted, as it is supposed to be under the act itself, so that the workers can read it in a language with which they are familiar?

I am not talking about that type of order. Where the workers are unorganized, fewer than one third of the plants in Ontario have a health and safety committee seven years after the act came into existence. Does the minister not think something has to be done about that? I say to my friend the member for High Park-Swansea that was 1983-84. That was one year of Toryism. My golly, the Tories were still in power until March 1985. There were 50,643 orders, 5,418 repeats, 91 prosecutions and 50 convictions. Are we not making progress? We are going down.

Mr. Pierce: I can tell by the smile on his face the member is happy.

Mr. Martel: Yes. We are really protecting the working class of the province.

Mr. Shymko: It will keep going down as long as the Liberals are in.

Mr. Martel: We had 50 with the Tories. We could not get much lower.

Mr. Shymko: We will see the figures next year.

Mr. Martel: I ask my friend how it would be possible—

Mr. Shymko: Does the member think there will be a change?

Mr. Martel: I have given the member the figures for the last two years the Tories were in power. In the industrial sector, they got 67 convictions in 1983-84, and that was reduced to 50 convictions in 1984-85, which is one tenth of one per cent.

Mr. Pierce: The member just told us things were getting better.

Mr. Shymko: That is right.

Mr. Martel: I did not say that. I said we ought to houseclean down there. That is why I called it the swamp, as the inspectors did. Imagine one tenth of one per cent who might be convicted for violating an act.

Mr. Shymko: Unacceptable.

Mr. Martel: I heard the crap my friend threw at me yesterday. The Minister of Labour said it was a complex issue. If the government is not going to lay charges in the case of fatalities, what is it going to lay charges for? That is so serious that someone loses his life. That is in the industrial sector. Things are the same if one wants to check with the mining sector. It is not

very good too. The number of orders issued in 1983-84 was 5,000. Let me see if I can find the number of convictions. I cannot find them. Maybe they do not even issue them.

We hear a lot of stuff about capital punishment in the event that policemen get killed. Do members know how many miners in Ontario were killed in 1984-85? There were 15 miners killed. That is a much higher figure than that for policemen right across Canada. I happen to represent a mining community, and there were four killed in one shot last year or the year before. I do not hear anybody saying, "Let us get serious."

There was a conviction in the death of a miner in Windsor recently. Do you know what the fine was, Mr. Speaker? It was \$5,000. Life is pretty cheap if one is a miner. Life is pretty cheap if one is a working person in this province. Do members know what happened in that instance? Somebody changed the logbook. Somebody entered in the log that there was a piece of loose that would require a piece of equipment to be used to remove it, and somebody changed the logbook.

The miner went in without the equipment, and the loose fell on him. He was using a bar to try to scale, as my friend the member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce) will know. It fell on him and crushed him. For changing a logbook in a case which led to a fatality, the fine was \$5,000. Life is cheap. There were 15 miners killed last year and nine the year before. That is far greater than any number of policemen ever killed.

Mr. Warner: Nobody goes to jail.

Mr. Martel: People do not go to jail. They do not even pay fines or go to court.

A young miner in Elliot Lake, about whom I have been raising Cain, four times in August warned that the gate underground did not work properly. He was killed by that gate in September. He was 33 years old. It took from September of last year till yesterday to find out they might prosecute.

10:40 a.m.

I wonder where governments have been in protecting working people from what are more than accidents, from what are crimes against humanity. Workers get injured in such ways, and no one gets anything back for what has been done to working people.

I want to talk not just in terms of accidents, but also in terms of industrial diseases. In Elliot Lake, 275 underground miners have now died of cancer. Half of the widows get pensions and the

other half get nothing. I have never been able to figure out the difference.

I remember when this bill came into existence as a result of the action of the United Steelworkers in Elliot Lake. My friend Stephen Lewis, my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), Linda Jolley and I spent all kinds of time in Elliot Lake. I remember going after the government then. The then Minister of Natural Resources, who now sits on the front benches of what used to be a government, used to say to me: "You exaggerate, my friend. You take it out of context, my friend."

Now 275 underground miners are dead. Miners now are dying of cancer at Elliot Lake at a rate of three a month. We have known the effects of radon daughters since 1919. I say to my friend the member for High Park-Swansea that the Department of Mines in 1961 said in its own annual report that we had to be aware of the hazards that would occur to miners working in uranium. It took a wildcat strike in 1974 to bring about this bill. We have stood still ever since the bill came about because we do not have the guts to enforce the act.

I have been talking on this topic for many years. In fact, the first question I raised at Queen's Park was on behalf of the people working in the coal plant in Sudbury. I was told by the then Minister of Mines, the white knight, Lawrence of Ontario, Allan himself, about trying to get inspections without advance notice. It is still rampant today. All working people ask is that when there is an inspection, it will be the conditions under which they work that are observed, and that is not happening.

Let me go on with this little tour I did. The workers now realize there are two ways the act can work. The first way is the internal responsibility system, and Inco and most big companies will say that unless upper management wants it to work it cannot work. It is not the health and safety committee that makes the determination; it only points out the problems. It is upper management that decides to change it. If it says no, then nothing can be done.

The second way is called enforcement. I put forward the figures for two years in one sector alone, and there is no enforcement. Actually, there is a third way. It is section 23 of the act on the right to refuse to work. Section 24, which follows it, says that if you refuse to work and a company threatens, harasses, attempts to intimidate you and so on, that is a violation of the act. There is yet to be a charge in Ontario for a company that does this.

We picked up a case, and I will document it more fully later on, of a young woman who refused to work in a store where for five days the heat was 52 degrees. The management fired her. It put right on the slip, "Dismissed because she refused to work." It is pretty clear that if the Ministry of Labour wanted to lay a charge, it would not have to look very far to find out there was intimidation or reprisal. The company wrote it out for the ministry, which will not lay a charge. The ministry will not do a thing. This is under the tenure of the current Minister of Labour; this is not even under the Tories.

Mr. Mancini: Oh, come on, Elie, you know it is not that bad.

Mr. Martel: I say to the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) that I am sorry, but that is the reality. These guys are no better; they are worse. They are the ones who created the monster.

The Ministry of Labour takes the position that a worker can go to the Ontario Labour Relations Board and have a hearing to go to arbitration. That is not quite true. If one does not have a union, one cannot have arbitration; so that eliminates two thirds of the work force in Ontario that cannot go to arbitration. That is compliments of the Tories. The Liberals have not changed it yet, but the change is coming in the act. I am hopeful it will change.

They can go to the Ontario Labour Relations Board. A friend of mine handled this case for the young woman for nothing. He got her a settlement. However, she does not have a job, the company was not fined and was not prosecuted. Does anybody worry about the Ministry of Labour? It is a joke.

Mr. Warner: They do not have to take her back.

Mr. Martel: The company does not take her back. She is out. It is in writing.

This is a case I raised earlier this spring. I do not want to give any of my new cases away. I will tell members how stupid this ministry really is. Five years ago orders were issued to the Robert Hunt Corp., which makes windows and doors in London, that it had to change from using fork lifts that exhaust carbon monoxide to electrical ones, so people would not get sick. Five years later that has not changed.

Mr. Shymko: Is that in the riding of the Premier (Mr. Peterson)?

Mr. Martel: No, I do not think so. I think it used to be in Gordon Walker's, but it does not matter. The point is, nothing has happened.

Let me tell this true story. One worker, Frank Stilson, has taken on this company by himself. He has been suspended twice—once for five days and once for three days. He has been taken out of the plant and sent to another plant. He has been intimidated. He gets no more overtime. If that is not bad enough, five years later the company has the same equipment exhausting carbon monoxide. The company came in recently, in March, and painted the floor.

It is interesting that the Ministry of Labour approved plans for a warehouse for this building, which is supposed to be a factory. A warehouse does not have exhaust systems in it and it does not have ventilation. The company gave plans for a warehouse, which turns out to be a factory, and the ministry does not do a thing. It does not have proper ventilation; so it paints the floor. It has to do some stuff on the floor; so a construction company comes in, does it and provides its workers with masks, breathing apparatus and the whole business. Their workers get up, leave, go home and are all healthy and safe. The next day, in come the workers for Robert Hunt. The first day 39 were taken to hospital; so they call in the Ministry of Labour. It sends in some of its flunkys from London.

Mr. Mancini: Is that what you call civil servants?

Mr. Martel: That is what I call these guys. I will call them worse before I am done, my friends. Flunkys.

Mr. Shymko: They are all flunkys from London. That is right.

Mr. Warner: They are useless, Remo.

Mr. Martel: They send in this flunkey—an inspector. I will tell his name—Sullivan—so the member will know whom I mean. Listen to the rest.

Mr. Mancini: I have listened to everything you have said.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. Martel: This guy sniffed around and said: "Oh, it is safe. The workers can go back in now." In they go, and what happens next? They take 14 more to the hospital. The guy should be fired for sending in workers without doing any testing. That man should be gone, fired, dismissed, got rid of.

This happened in March. Let me add to it; it gets better. A couple of days later, six more go to the hospital because of monoxide fumes from the hoist, which the company had been ordered five years ago to get rid of. The Ministry of Labour goes in and issues 23 more orders. For five years

the ministry has been issuing orders, and they do nothing. Frank Stilson used his right under the act to refuse because he had enough courage. He is a young man.

I will tell my friend the member for Essex South another interesting story. I met with the Minister of Labour one night right here privately in my office. There was a guy working for Imperial Oil.

An hon. member: Russell Ramsay?

Mr. Martel: Russell Ramsay-Wrye. I met with him. There was a young worker for Imperial Oil who had a couple of citations for doing a good job in occupational health. This was nonunionized labour. He knew he was on his way out because he had found some asbestos in a laboratory. He kept pestering the company about the asbestos, which was in chunks all over the lab at Imperial Oil in Sarnia.

I said to the minister, "My friend, I would like you to send an inspector in there unannounced." The company was on a two-year cyclical inspection. By the way, cyclical inspections are gone now; they do not exist. I said, "Why do you not go in, have the guy check around and see whether this man is right? If he is, I think the company is going to fire him."

Down goes the inspector. He talks to management for an hour. He then gets on the intercom and calls my friend to his office. The last thing I said to the minister was, "You cannot let them know you are going in there to do an inspection to see whether this guy is right." They take the guy around, they write out a bunch of orders about asbestos and the kid is fired. What a ministry. What a bunch of hooligans we have in that ministry.

Mr. Shymko: Does the Minister of Labour not consult the member at any time?

Mr. Martel: No, and neither did Russell Ramsay or Bob Elgie—none of them.

We are going to change the act. I have gone on long enough. I am just starting on this. Let me give members some quick examples of what is going on. It does not matter where. This act is being violated and it is totally useless. I am giving the minister notice of what we intend to bring up.

Regarding nursing homes, the former government pulled down all of those institutions where people who had mental illnesses were. We do not have any homes in the province for them. We do not have aftercare. Do members know where these people are? In nursing homes. Do members know what they are doing? Pounding the living daylight out of the female staff in nursing

homes. It is a fact. I have the statistics on the assaults on staff. It is rampant.

By the way, because of cutbacks by government in hospitals and so on, nurses now equal miners for back injuries. I tell the member for High Park-Swansea that did not happen only yesterday. That took a long time and a lot of cutting back. These women weigh 115 pounds. They try to lift somebody weighing 200 pounds by themselves and suffer back injuries equivalent to those of miners. Assaults are rampant.

I will tell an interesting little story about hospitals. There is a hospital in Ottawa, but I will not name it yet; I will later on. When doctors operate on someone, there are these bad parts that have to be taken to an incinerator. They used to take them away to the Department of National Defence. Is that not what they said? Does the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) know? They took it to the National Defence incinerator. When they came back they had the back of the Volkswagen full of pizza. Happy days are here again.

Mr. Warner: Oh, Jesus.

Mr. Martel: Oh, yes, it was full of pizza.

Mr. Shymko: Is the member serious?

Mr. Martel: Yes, I am dead serious.

Ms. Gigantes: It is true. I was with it.

Mr. Martel: My colleague was with it. They were bringing the pizza in the back where they had just carried all the infected organs to the incinerator. What does one say?

I got the Minister of Labour to send five of his people into a hospital in September about asbestos. They are going to reconstruct it. Five people from Toronto went to Ottawa. They got in on the inspection and they were going to do all these wonderful things. Four weeks ago the hospital decided that before it does the reconstruction, it is going to change its phone network from Ma Bell—

Ms. Gigantes: To Mitel at the end of February.

Mr. Martel: —to Mitel at the end of February. Patients were in their beds. Visitors were there. People from Mitel were drilling holes through the walls. The asbestos fell into rooms, around the patients. They sent for the Ministry of Labour inspector. He came in and said, "With all the construction, I cannot write an order." For three days this went on with the patients right in their beds, the visitors and staff there and these clowns drilling holes with asbestos floating around and being ingested or inhaled by patients.

Ms. Gigantes: They brought in a vacuum cleaner, remember?

Mr. Martel: Yes. The Ministry of Labour inspector said: "I cannot write an order. This new regulation on asbestos does not become effective until the middle of March." All he had to do was take clause 14(2)(d) of the act to take any precaution necessary if he thought there was a problem. It did not have to pertain to the asbestos regulation. He could have protected people.

It was interesting. The member for Ottawa Centre and I were there. We were at the Public Service Alliance of Canada building. I will tell the members how crazy the ministry is. This humungous crane came in right next to the building. It started lifting all kinds of things right over the entrance with no protective barriers, nothing. One of the workers picked up the phone, phoned the Ministry of Labour and said, "You know, Martel is in that building right now."

Mr. Warner: That is probably why they went in.

Mr. Martel: Yes. The member should have seen the fur fly. They were down there in 10 minutes. An order was issued and the job was stopped. By midafternoon all the barriers were up. I was there. That goes on across this province constantly everywhere. People walk in and out of buildings and bloody cranes are operating overhead with no protective barriers. The act is totally useless.

I came away from the hearings after five weeks, exhausted and literally emotionally drained because the act, the way it is written today, is a pretty good act. We could amend it, put in the internal responsibility system and give the workers power to protect themselves.

Mr. Shymko: That is the constitution; it is all good on paper.

Mr. Martel: It has been so totally wasted for the past seven years that management knows it does not even have to look at the act. I can go on and I will. Last year civil servants in the Ministry of Correctional Services had 1,600 accidents. There is no protection in offices, mines, libraries, universities or schools.

Does the member for Essex South know what they did in Windsor in a school? Formaldehyde is carcinogenic, and when the students are in biology, playing around with the rats and the frogs and so on, they are supposed to be given protective gloves that cost 19 cents a pair. They had the kids in a high school cutting these frogs with formaldehyde without protective equipment. It is everywhere.

11 a.m.

For years I have been trying to get a minister to give people the power to protect themselves. We have that on one side; on the other side, we have the Industrial Accident Prevention Association.

I know I am running late, but I want to finish up on this. What a magnificent group is the Industrial Accident Prevention Association of Ontario. It had a three-day convention in Toronto a couple of weeks ago that cost \$365,000. That is not bad. There were 8,000 people there.

We have all heard it. Every last Tory and Liberal has heard industry complaining before the Workers' Compensation Board about the assessment rates and the unfunded liability of \$5.6 billion. Every company in Ontario belongs to one of the groups in the Industrial Accident Prevention Association. They received \$31.5 million last year from the Workers' Compensation Board to teach health and safety in the work place in the province. That was for nine associations, and every operating company belongs to one of the nine.

Who is fighting the act? Who is preventing it from being useful? Who intimidates, fires and dismisses? Who does not bring in adequate testing of toxic substances? Who covers up constantly? Companies. Yet they got \$31.5 million.

It is interesting that there has never been an audit of an accident prevention association. They get carte blanche from the Workers' Compensation Board. They argue it is their money. However, Weiler and other noted people say it is public money. The associations do not do a thing. They are totally useless.

It is the same companies that want it both ways. They want the assessment from the Workers' Compensation Board cut and, on the other hand, they are the ones that are violating Bill 7.

Ms. Gigantes: They have done some nice ads.

Mr. Martel: Yes, they have done some ads, pardon me. They have done some beautiful ads. There is that dumb worker. Have members ever seen an ad put on by the Construction Safety Association of Ontario? It is always the stupid worker out there; he does stupid things and gets hurt. It is never that management sends him into it.

My friends and I were talking about the minister from northern Ontario. We heard some wonderful things about some of the pulp and paper plants in Hearst and Kapuskasing. One plant spends \$15 a year for health and safety equipment. A worker gets one set of ear plugs. If

he loses them, he has lost them for life. By the way, the pulp and paper industry has one of the highest incidence of noise levels.

The forest industry has the highest accident rate—almost all the people in it—and it fights health and safety like mad. Some of the government's friends in Timmins, some of those great little companies, spend \$15 a year—

Mr. Shymko: Do they get charged for not wearing those hearing aids?

Mr. Martel: Yes, the workers get charged. If they get caught by the Ministry of Labour without hearing plugs, they get charged on the spot.

Mr. Shymko: What is the charge, \$15?

Mr. Martel: It is \$58, not \$15.

Industry cannot have it both ways. It cannot be opposed to health and safety and be running to government saying: "You have to cut the assessment at the Workers' Compensation Board. We are going out of business. It is too costly." If industry wants to change it, there is one way. If it wants to reduce the assessment, it can improve its health and safety record. That is the only way. Yet these companies, which are represented by safety associations that get the \$31.5 million, fight it more than anyone else I know. They do not want health and safety.

Mr. Shymko: They do it with public funds.

Mr. Martel: Yes.

What does labour get? Labour got \$420,000. This year it is getting \$1.7 million. Labour represents 4.5 million workers. The accident prevention associations are getting \$31.5 million.

Not only must we provide the money for labour to teach its members how to protect themselves, but also we have to establish worker-controlled clinics so we can hire doctors and hygienists to do the investigation to determine whether workers become sick from the work place to which they are exposed.

Mr. Shymko: Such as the one in Hamilton.

Mr. Martel: The ones that do not get any government funding, such as the one in Windsor, the one in London or the lakeshore area multiservices project. None of them gets a cent, but we give \$31.5 million to industry. They hire all the doctors and lawyers possible to prove one does not get cancer from working with uranium.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Who pays that?

Mr. Martel: That is public money. I know who puts the money into the Workers' Compensation Board, but I also know Weiler and two

royal commissions said it is public money once it is put into the board. Why do we not share it? Why do we not give \$31 million to the Ontario Federation of Labour to establish worker clinics around this province, with doctors and hygienists?

Mr. Shymko: Even \$15 million.

Mr. Martel: Why do we not split the \$31 million in half and give half to industry and half to labour? I would go for that. We can hire people to balance it out.

Mr. Shymko: Elie, it takes a change in government.

Mr. Martel: We have one. I hope it will.

I want to quit on this last point about clinics. The thing I saw the most when I was out there was the concern people had in working with substances they did not know they were working with, such as carcinogenic substances. When we were in St. Catharines, we visited one company that provided data sheets. Interestingly enough, it had just changed them when I got there. The original data sheets gave the formula, the chemical composition, the hazardous effects—that it causes tumours in rats—and the protection. The company brought in a new data sheet with the warning about cancer in rats removed. It was a good data sheet, was it not?

Talking about the Ministry of Labour, I have one case right now from McDonnell Douglas regarding a substance with a threshold limit value of 350 parts per million. When the workers refused to work there, the substance was tested and it was 6,072 parts per million. I got the answer on my desk just yesterday. The company provided masks that were good for TLVs of 500 parts per million. Yet the limits reached were 6,072 parts per million.

When the workers refused to work there, it was not handled in the proper way. The minister admits that. There is a violation for inappropriate handling of a work refusal. The company was providing masks that were not adequate to protect against levels of 13, 14 and 20 times higher. They were adequate for levels of 350 parts per million, but the levels reached 6,072 parts per million. Do members know how many charges were laid? Not one. In fact, it was a doctor from the Ministry of Labour who said it was safe to go back in there.

Workers are afraid of the things that cause cancer, and there are 300 carcinogens. Company after company says it cannot provide the data sheets.

Mr. Shymko: Goodyear is another one, the rubber industry.

Mr. Martel: Yes, Goodyear. We are going to bring them all out as we go along.

The information is there. If workers cannot get it through the company they work for, there should be a place where they can get it. As I said, if they had independently funded clinics that could hire hygienists, adequate staff and specialists to be advocates for their health, we would be doing something positive in Ontario.

11:10 a.m.

I have been in this business a long time—19 years—and I get frustrated. Although one talks to ministers and governments, it seems they are more interested in protecting industry than in protecting the health and safety of working people. Some day I hope we will have a government that will have enough courage to do only three things. One is to establish health and safety committees made up of labour and management that will run a health and safety plan and will say: "It does not matter who is in power. It does not matter who the civil servants are, we are going to run it." Second, I hope we will have a government that has enough courage to say, "We are going to give power to the health and safety committee in the work place."

I know it is radical to give power to workers and to say, "You have to make the change or the place does not operate." Industry will go mad. When the funding does not flow in, people will say we cannot do that for all kinds of crazy reasons.

We heard them all at the beginning of the debate on Bill 70. Workers have never abused it. They have the right and the responsibility to protect their health and safety because they have families at home. Surely to God there is a government somewhere that has the courage to give working people the power and the funds necessary to hire the people to protect themselves from industrial disease and trauma. Before I leave this zoo, I hope I see the day when we will give working people that power.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions and comments?

Mr. Mancini: I enjoyed the member's comments, as I always do. When I came in this morning, I was not too sure that the first thing I wanted to hear was the voice of the member for Sudbury East, but after a while things got in their normal groove and it was quite pleasant. Because of his long years of experience in the House, some 19 years, and because of the interest he has shown in mine workers and others, no one has ever denied that he is quite knowledgeable. Many of the incidental points he has brought

forward here today and in the past to the members of the Legislature are correct and he has pointed out some flaws in the system.

With the new government and the new Minister of Labour, we have turned over a page in matters that involve labour and workers, particularly in the area of health and safety. As he demonstrated with the situation in Windsor, with the Valenite-Modco situation, the new minister has shown some courage that was not demonstrated in the past. He has stated quite clearly that he wants to be more aggressive in the area of safety in the work place. Time will prove that my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich will be an effective Minister of Labour and will protect workers from unsafe situations. I know even the Conservative Party members would not want to see any of their friends, relatives or people in their constituencies put in a situation where they might have to be in a work place that is unsafe. They never had the courage to do anything about it. The Minister of Labour does have that courage.

The member will probably not be running for re-election after this term. I hope we can find a suitable place for him where we can use his skills, perhaps in areas like health and safety.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other questions or comments? Does the member for Sudbury East wish to reply?

Mr. Martel: I will just say two things. If the minister was going to something at Valenite-Modco, he would have laid charges. He talked tough and did nothing. It was all in place, and that is what worries me.

Second, he has a bunch of people around him who apply the act. Over the years, they have taken the position that one does not prosecute, one mediates. I do not know another piece of legislation where one mediates. That is why I say he has to do a housecleaning job because that group has what one might call a mindset on mediating. As I toured, I talked to inspectors privately who told me that nothing has changed.

Mr. D. W. Smith: It is a pleasure for me to rise to take part in this throne speech debate in the second session of the 33rd Parliament. I want to state how it will affect the people of Ontario and, in many ways, the constituents of Lambton county.

I have enjoyed listening to the many speakers who have taken part in this debate, especially my colleague the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Taylor), who so colourfully and graphically described his riding of Prince Edward-Lennox that I am sure he will have

tourists travelling there all summer. He did an excellent job. However, now that we have the St. Clair River cleaned up, I am sure everyone will want to come to Lambton and enjoy the beautiful St. Clair River and Lake Huron as well.

This throne speech is endeavouring to make the people of Ontario aware that we are in an era of transition and that there will be changes in the way issues are dealt with to better serve the many sectors of society.

When deregulation was applied to some of our industries, this told us that the rules were changing from those we had been accustomed to and that the people affected in Ontario should prepare for some innovative ideas. We are a large province in area in a large country with a relatively small population, and we cannot always accomplish our objectives as efficiently as some other countries can. As we read in the market reports in the financial pages, programs that used to work in the marketplace are no longer responding as they did in the past. It is quite possible that deregulation is happening too quickly for the general economy to react and respond to it. We have to realize that new approaches will have to be taken for us to remain competitive with other importing countries that are flooding our markets with products made with new technology.

I want to take members back in history 50 years. It seems rather ironic that we are having to address some of the same issues today as members of the Legislature were addressing then. For instance, they were hoping the federal government would be able to provide unemployment insurance on a national scale to help the unemployed of that era. Today we are hearing from time to time of workers being laid off from a number of our plants in the Chemical Valley as well as elsewhere in the province. I am sure our government will be addressing this issue in the future.

Another interesting comment made in the throne speech of 1938 was on the capital expenditures for Ontario Hydro in 1937. They were \$8,245,000 then, and now Ontario Hydro spends 40 per cent of that figure every day on the Darlington project.

Another issue under discussion at that time was the dollars being spent for health purposes. They had to ensure then, as we have to ensure today, that health care is affordable to all and accessible to all.

I bring these historical facts to the attention of this House and of the people of Ontario to show

that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

I was pleased to see health care mentioned to a great degree in the throne speech. The government wants to see this province maintain a health care system that is the envy of the world, but it also recognizes that the system must be re-vamped and changed to meet the changes of an ageing population and the need for the independence of our senior citizens, wherever and whenever possible.

I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and his ministry for the assistance and support they have seen fit to provide in the hospitals and health care facilities in the riding of Lambton.

I also want to mention how important the tourist trade is to Ontario. I am pleased to see it addressed in the throne speech. We as the government of this province must endeavour to create programs, in conjunction with private enterprise, to entice American travellers to visit and enjoy our cities and countryside. We have come to grips with the environment and we have made people more aware of the need to clean up. It is with pleasure that we can invite everyone to the beautiful blue St. Clair River, Lake Huron and the many other tourist attractions within Lambton.

11:20 a.m.

I want to talk for a short while on the agricultural problems in Lambton county and in the whole of Ontario. I am pleased that agriculture and small business were brought into the throne speech in a positive way. The agricultural community is going through a tremendous period of adjustment, and I believe it reached this point for a number of reasons. We have come through the inflationary 1970s and are now in the deflationary 1980s.

In one way of adjustment for some, we can talk about small milk plants and cheese factories that were purchased by large companies and then closed down. This had a very negative effect on our small towns and businesses within the small communities. The farming community has gone through this transition period of extreme increases in import costs which are based on the Canadian economy. Now they are left with those high costs but are forced to sell on a world market.

There are no products grown, such as grains and vegetables, or stock raised that could not be produced more cheaply in another country. In order to maintain a stable economy within the province and the country, however, we must

have a strong, viable agricultural community or we shall soon become slaves of some other country or regime that will provide us with food at whatever cost it decides we should pay. I believe this government will be responding to these concerns in the future.

To show how important agriculture is to everyone, I was told by a constituent that a survey was done in the town in which he lives showing that residents of the town itself spent only 18 cents of their wage dollars within the town. Those residing in the outlying community spent 35 to 40 cents of their wage dollars within the town. It is very important that the family farm and the agricultural community are helped through this difficult period in order to help improve all sectors of society.

Over the years, there have been many professional people who have worked with the agricultural programs and have understood the theories of farming very well. I believe, however, that the practical aspect of farming can be so different that this knowledge cannot be gained without that first-hand experience. We have to keep all people's opinions in perspective at all times.

I remember a number of years ago we were advised to specialize in our farming operations to enable us to become more efficient with our products. Specializing made the farm operation much more vulnerable to the cycles of the marketplace, however. At the same time, large companies were diversifying or generalizing and were much less vulnerable to the changes in the market.

It may sound as though I am opposed to large companies, which I am not, but they appear to have been able to handle their position very well over a great many years and decades. They seem to be able to hire the smartest lawyers, accountants and executive officers, and we cover all their costs of production through their products, which are paid for by the consumers in the end. I believe agriculture must be given all its costs of production as well.

This government recognizes that there have to be changes made quickly. As I read through the throne speech, I could see the message was there. I hope the budget can address some of our problems more specifically.

I have heard the comment so many times from people who have never actually farmed and do not understand basic economics that farmers are just complaining again. I want to tell those people that if the agricultural community cannot buy a new tractor or truck or fertilizer, then the factory worker who helps to produce those items

will not have a job or a very comfortable, secure living either. The farmer has to get all his costs of production, plus a profit, equal to the wage of the industrial and service sector workers, or our community will not thrive and possibly will not even survive as we understand it today.

I want to pass along a comment made to me by a person who worked in the Chemical Valley for some 37 years. During that time, he received a wage increase every year, and sometimes twice per year, and retired with a good pension. If the agricultural community had received the same treatment, we would not be faced with the social problems we have before us today. Each sector of society would be in balance one with the other. I mention this because in Lambton a great number of farmers have to work in these plants in the Chemical Valley to obtain enough income to keep going. If agriculture were given its cost of production, more jobs would be available for the people who live in the towns and cities.

To give another aspect or view of the farm problem, I want to tell this House that three pieces of equipment in 1974 that listed for \$21,500 would list at four to five times that price today, while the prices of our commodities are either the same as they were in 1974 or possibly a little less for some farm products.

A great deal of new wealth is created in agriculture to make our capitalistic system work efficiently. During the past couple of years, I have been able to speak with members of the banking community, and they have implied that it is possibly easier dealing with a chief executive officer of a large company than with a number of small businessmen or businesswomen and family farmers. However, dealing with a large company such as Dome Petroleum has not been too profitable to the banks or the taxpayers of this country and province. It alarms me a bit when a company owing money to banks and possibly the government, which is the people, says it is not going to pay the principal or the interest on its debt for 14 months. If this is possible with one large company, the same conditions should apply to other sectors of society.

We have to start listening to the grass-roots people from all walks of life in this province. I am not sure whose voices inspired the previous administration. This throne speech has given us general guidelines for the next 14 years, taking us into the 21st century. I am pleased to help in some small way as part of this government party.

I want to close with a quote from William Bryan, in which he said in 1896, "Burn down your cities and leave our farms and your cities

will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and the grass will grow on the streets of every city in the country."

Mr. Baetz: Along with thousands of other Ontarians, I was looking forward to the throne speech with great anticipation. I thought that surely we had a right to expect, after 42 years in preparation, a visionary and cohesive master plan, a carefully thought out blueprint that would guide the people of this province out of the 20th century and into the 21st.

Instead, we have witnessed an exercise in blowing bubbles in the air. The speech, like bubble-blowing, was not a repugnant exercise; indeed, it was rather pretty. It was full of very colourful words and phrases giving it all the colours and hues of a verbal rainbow. The problem is that as one tries to grab on to and examine the contents of these bravely and vaguely stated intents, they, like the bubbles, burst and vanish into thin air. Very simply, there is no substance in the speech to back up the claim that this is an "agenda for the next decade" offering "a framework for long-term achievement rather than a list of short-term promises."

11:30 a.m.

It would have been better to have given us a short list of specific projects and promises rather than this exercise in vague abstractions. It is unfortunate that the speech was so void of vision, because this government inherited a rich legacy from the previous administration. The solid base to launch the province to even greater social and economic heights is here to build on. The economy is strong. Our labour force is growing rapidly, as the speech itself has noted. Some 179,000 new jobs have been created in the last 12 months. Housing starts in the province rose to an annual rate of 78,000 in the fourth quarter of 1985, the highest rate in seven years.

The speech notes that the Ontario system of health care and social services ranks with the best in the world. I agree. What an excellent inheritance and basis on which to improve.

The economic activity has driven the unemployment rate down to 6.8 per cent, the lowest in Canada. All these activities were really generated and initiated before the present administration assumed power. It is therefore particularly unfortunate that the government, if one is to assess it by this throne speech, simply does not have the necessary vision to capitalize fully on the good fortune it has inherited.

I will confine my comments to the social policy field, where it is particularly and painfully evident that this government lacks the vision to

assist to the fullest potential the people of Ontario to improve both their quality of life and their quantity of life.

If the throne speech generally must be severely criticized for being simply a hotchpotch and a mishmash of old programs and ideas, this is nowhere more evident than in the whole field of social policy. Here even more than elsewhere one cannot help but get the impression that the authors are some neophytes in this field who have suddenly discovered ideas, concepts, plans and programs that had been evident for decades.

For example, we need not be reminded that we are now entering and must be prepared for the post-industrial society. That is an observation and a realization that has been around for at least 20 years. Nor do we need to be told that we are in a period of transition, as we were told repeatedly throughout the speech. Surely that too is something as self-evident as to note that the future is imminent.

There is above all a very disconcerting overall impression that social policy is very much an adjunct to economic policy as far as this government is concerned. Social policies, social programs and social development all appear on the cost side, the expenditure side of the provincial balance sheet. Economic development, on the other hand, is the revenue-producing side. Therefore, it is argued that only to the extent that the economy produces wealth can the social programs, health, education and so on be financed.

This kind of truncated, bifurcated, double-vision approach to our society does not bode well for a government that wants to build a world-class society, to use the author's favourite phrase. This kind of thinking completely overlooks the fact that provincial expenditures in education, health and some of the other social programs are also important investments in our economy. The development of our human resources is every bit as important and, indeed, will be more important to our economy in future than the development of even our commodity resources.

This throne speech makes it abundantly clear that this kind of progressive, comprehensive view of society is simply not there. The approach to health care in the throne speech clearly manifests the philosophy of health care being a cost item rather than an investment. The speech admits that Ontario's system of health care and social services ranks with the best in the world. It has not said, of course, that it is thanks to the previous administration.

It thus goes on to announce a major study and review of health care, but prefaces it all with a stern warning about the escalating costs of the past decade of the system. There is not a word estimating the benefits to the economy of our time in having a healthy population.

This frothy, bubbly approach to social policy is all too evident in the proposed plan in education, with its stress on scientific disciplines. While there is no doubt that we are moving into an ever more scientific and technological society, surely the key to human happiness—and that is, after all, the ultimate goal of all of this—does not lie only in the development of the scientific mind. Indeed, an argument can be made that in this ever more technological society, if people are to retain their humanity, our educational system for those at a very young age should be evoking in the children intellectual interests that go far beyond running a computer. There is something very unsettling about a future, as expressed in the speech from the throne, that intends to further accentuate the scientific side of our educational curriculum in the elementary and secondary school systems.

Perhaps the most eloquent appeal for greater concentration on the humanities is reflected in the writing of the speech from the throne itself. The wordsmiths who wrote the speech and their political bosses who approved it may be skilful in the use of the computer, but they lack the necessary perception and understanding of our society. They should know better than anyone else the limitations of the adage *re the computer: garbage in, garbage out*.

The speech speaks in a somewhat prophetic, visionary manner about the creation of geriatric assessment units in selected community hospitals. It may come as something of a surprise to the authors to know that after a great deal of study and planning under the distinguished leadership of a visiting British geriatric specialist, a geriatric assessment unit was established in Ottawa one year ago, with financing made available by the provincial government of the day. This centre has been in operation for one year, based at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, and has been proven to be well planned and conceptually sound.

The one statement that is missing is about a mobile team that would do assessment of geriatric patients in their own homes. Unfortunately, this program has now been seriously thwarted and its outcome frustrated by the present provincial government because of inadequate funding. The care facilities that have been identified by an assessment team as the most

appropriate for the patients are simply not there. One result is that far too many patients are still occupying acute beds in hospitals, even though an assessment of their needs indicates they should be in chronic care beds or in their own homes with proper home care.

In other words, because of the lack of adequate provincial funding, we have in Ottawa today the bitter irony of a growing backlog of geriatric patients, all of them assessed but with nowhere to go. Neither these geriatric patients nor those organizing and running the program require the further insights and rhetoric of yet another white paper on adequate geriatric care. What they require is an adequate degree of funding to implement the appropriate care that careful assessment indicates should be given.

The throne speech has a vague promise to establish a multidisciplinary department of geriatrics at one of Ontario's universities. That promise has puzzled many geriatric experts. The concentration of limited resources in one such super geriatric department at one university could very well be a misdirected waste. A far bigger bang for the buck could be obtained by enriching the teaching of geriatrics at all of the five Ontario medical schools.

Currently, geriatrics gets about only one per cent of the teaching curriculum. Family practitioners, especially, should receive extra training for their growing number of geriatric patients. The appeal for the establishment of "a world-class"—to use the pet phrase of the author—department of geriatrics at one university may be great for a government that is interested in show, but it is an idea that should be dismissed quickly if it results in taking limited funds from increased funding for geriatric teaching for family physicians.

11:40 a.m.

The speech promises to launch a thorough review of Ontario's social assistance system to determine ways more effectively to combat poverty. One cannot help but become sceptical, even cynical, at the proposal for such a major review. Poverty is a subject that has been virtually studied to death in Canada over the last two decades, beginning in 1971 with the comprehensive report, *Poverty in Canada: Report of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty*, which was headed by Senator Croll. Most recently, the National Council of Welfare issued its annual report entitled *Poverty Profile, 1985*. Virtually every community social planning council in Ontario, including that in Ottawa-Carleton, has produced reports on poverty.

The Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto has produced a number of valuable reports on the welfare system and its impact on poverty from coast to coast. The Canadian Council on Social Development has produced many reports over the years. One of the most recent ones was entitled *Not Enough: The Meaning and Measurement of Poverty in Canada*. The National Anti-Poverty Organization has produced a number of useful studies on various aspects of poverty. One could go on and on.

We are not lacking insights into and knowledge of the causes and effects of poverty in this province and in this country. What we are lacking is enough public will and political will in its mitigation. I am therefore very sceptical about the value of yet another major review. It provides a very cautious minister a great excuse not to take the steps that must be taken.

The comments of the poor New Brunswick potato farmer, in reply to a proposal that he should attend a course in agriculture during the winter months, are relevant here. He said: "Heck, why should I learn more about farming? I ain't using half the knowledge on farming I have got right now."

It is more than a little revealing of how narrow and limited this government's approach is to combating poverty, and especially its causes, when it approaches this complex subject of the social assistance system operated under the Ministry of Community and Social Services. To make any useful inroads into the various causes of poverty requires a far broader attack on this ancient evil. It requires broadly based taxation reform designed to produce equitable income redistribution. It requires better urban planning to reduce ghettoization of the urban poor, which in turn leads to a cultural poverty that spreads the disease from one generation to another.

A real war on poverty requires greater effort at community development programs in disadvantaged and depressed rural areas. It requires better outreach programs for transient youths to provide them with the necessary initial stability and encouragement to develop whatever innate resources they may have. An attack on poverty demands better labour laws to protect the ageing and aged employees who can and want to continue in their employment beyond age 65.

A truly effective war on poverty requires all of these measures and many more. It is therefore little wonder that we become sceptical and even a bit cynical when we hear in this throne speech that this government plans to combat poverty primarily through the social assistance system

and will start it all with another comprehensive review. Obviously, it is through the social assistance system that we must mitigate the raw realities of poverty today and treat the casualties that are in our midst right now. It is the social assistance system that must not only provide the means of daily survival—adequate food, clothing and shelter for the victims—but also, in those cases where rehabilitation is even remotely possible, assist the individuals in building for a better tomorrow.

The social assistance system must do what it can to sustain at least some glimmer of realistic hope for the victims of poverty, because when hope has died within the victim, the social assistance program can really do little more than provide palliative care—we hope with sensitivity and understanding.

I was interested several years ago when our colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) went on his poverty diet to experience raw poverty. I was not sceptical or cynical about his attempt to do this, but I suspect when he went on a diet that was comparable to that of the welfare assistance cases, even though he might have experienced the physical pangs of hunger that the welfare cases experience, what he did not find or discover was the major component of poverty, which is loss of hope. He never lost hope. What makes the difference between poor and being poverty stricken is hope for the morrow. I suspect that all of us when we were university students were living on very low incomes in garrets. We did not regard ourselves as victims of poverty. We had hope for the future.

It is the social assistance program that reflects how and to what extent society at large is prepared to assist or not to assist the casualties of poverty. When the collective will of the majority is not strong enough or is even mean-minded in what it is prepared to give to those on welfare, it all too often uses the social assistance system as the scapegoat.

Society generally can rid itself of its collective feeling of guilt by castigating those who work on its behalf on the social assistance programs. The charges directed at the social assistance system range all the way from the system being incompetent, insensitive and inflexible to it being antiquated and bureaucratic with unimaginative personnel.

It is probably understandable that the general public might carry some of these feelings, because very few among of its members have an intimate knowledge of what the system is all

about, the kind of work that the front-line workers do and how the system functions; but it is not understandable nor is it forgivable that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) should charge that the system is antiquated and 50 years out of date, as he was reported as saying in the *Toronto Star* of April 14.

To suggest that the social assistance program in Canada has not changed drastically for the better since the Dirty Thirties illustrates that the minister simply does not know the system or that he is deliberately playing to the gallery. Neither I nor anyone else who is interested in social assistance claims that the program is entirely adequate and requires no change. Obviously, change is constantly necessary. Thanks to thousands of imaginative, sensitive and dedicated workers, from deputy ministers to front-line, nonprofessional community workers and thousands of volunteers, this system has made some progress. It is working.

Simply to say that the system is 50 years old, antiquated and out of tune is totally to ignore the brilliant work carried on by some of the senior people in our social assistance system here in Canada. I should mention the late Dr. Joseph Willard, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare in Canada, Dr. Richard Splane, Dr. Fred McKinnon of the Department of Public Welfare in Nova Scotia and our own Dr. Jimmy Band here.

I could go on to talk about my predecessor at the Canadian Council on Social Development, Dr. Richard Davis. We can think of Bess Touzell and of the late Harry Cassidy. I am not going to talk about his son, but Harry Cassidy was one of the great visionaries of our social assistance program when he was dean at the school of social work here in Toronto. These are all brilliant people who have brought our social assistance system into the late 20th century.

None would argue that the system does not need improvement, but for the minister to stand up here and say that this system is 50 years old and it has not changed over five decades simply does not give us the right assessment of what the system is all about. As I say, there is room for improvement. Over the years I for one have been advocating a guaranteed annual income, and so was Robert Stanfield back in 1972. Maybe the time has come when we should once again look at the inauguration of a system of guaranteed annual income. Certainly, it is much more flexible and adaptable in helping the working poor.

It is unfortunate that the minister should simply play to the gallery, as it were, and say the reason we still have poverty is that the social assistance system is antiquated. The same minister said on April 14 in the *Toronto Star*, with great concern, that we are putting an awful lot of money into the welfare system, \$1.6 billion. He said: "That's an awful lot of money and it should be going a long way towards solving that problem. What is wrong?" His answer is that 50-year-old welfare system. I wonder whether it ever occurred to the minister that we spend an awful lot of money on welfare because there is an awful lot of poverty in our midst.

11:50 a.m.

In the same article, he cites homelessness as "a very serious problem" in Metropolitan Toronto. The reason we cannot cope with this problem, he feels, is that too large numbers are flocking to Toronto for jobs or the excitement of the big city. My own assessment is that they are flocking to Toronto for excitement in the big city because there are no jobs available for them in their home towns.

On April 14, on the CBC radio phone-in program, the same minister said: "No matter how much money you make, how much money you have, it never really is enough because there are other things that you want to do. For example, a single mother would say: 'I do not have enough to live on because my child cannot play hockey. I cannot afford to buy skates.' Then you have to ask yourself, is the government-sponsored income support system designed to buy hockey skates? You see, at this point in time, it is not. It is designed to put food on the table, a roof over your head and clothes on your back, and that is all. That may not be enough, but who makes that decision as to what is enough?"

I would respond by saying that the decision of what is enough is to be made by the minister and his government. This is a negative, sterile attitude expressed by the minister about the severe limits of his social assistance program. All the vague talk in the speech from the throne about combating poverty through social assistance programs is simply another example of blowing bubbles in the air.

I would like to make several comments on ageing. No statement on social policy today would be complete without substantial reference to the age group in our population which will be growing the most rapidly, namely, the elderly, those aged over 65. Between today and the year 2001, the senior citizen population will increase

by more than half a million, a percentage increase of 55 per cent. This contrasts with the overall anticipated population increase of 13.8 per cent.

The task force on human and social services of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) has just produced an excellent report on *Care for the Elderly*, subtitled *Developing a More Co-ordinated and Community-Based Approach*. It is a valuable, up-to-date, forward-looking document that will serve as an excellent guide and discussion paper for those interested in developing sound social policies and programs for the elderly. No doubt my colleague the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) will speak further on this report during this or subsequent debates.

I would like to expand on an observation made by that discussion paper. It notes correctly that when we speak of the elderly, i.e., persons over 65, we are really speaking of three very different age groups. I have referred to them from time to time as the young old, the middle old and the old old, in age brackets ranging respectively from 65 to 74, 75 to 84 and 85 and over.

Although many of our labour laws and pieces of social legislation treat these three age groups as a homogeneous unit beginning at the magic midnight hour of age 65, there are vast differences in lifestyles and social and economic needs among the elderly during these various ages and stages of growing older. This lumping together of all ages in our legislation surely violates what is or should be a basic social policy, namely, that of providing the greatest degree of personal individual choice and encouraging their full independence as long as possible.

Nowhere is this weakness in our current social policies more apparent than in the matter of mandatory retirement at age 65. If there is one emerging predominant characteristic of our post-industrial society's labour force, it is to get away from rigid work schedules established for various sectors of the labour force and clearly determined consistent career patterns followed through a lifetime.

Much of this rigidity has given way to far greater flexibility and individual choice through such mechanisms as flex hours, time-sharing, prolonged leave of absence, career retraining and changing of careers. In the past week, we have heard of a two-day working weekend that is comparable to a full week of work. All this shows us that we have become very flexible and adaptable in our attitude to the hours spent at the work place. If we believe in this principle of flexibility, then surely we should extend to all

people the greatest degree of personal choice, which is the cornerstone of our free society. We should do so for the aged and not ring that bell at midnight at age 65.

Indicative of the lack of any comprehensive and coherent social policy in this speech is the fact that virtually no reference is made of the fundamental unit in our society, namely, the family. The only mention of the family was made in a fleeting manner in relation to child abuse and day care spaces. The Canadian family, the traditional cornerstone of our society and the wellspring of future generations, remains the basic unit of our society, even if it has undergone enormous changes during the past 25 years. The changes in the roles of wives and mothers, in the size of families and in family lifestyles have been dramatic.

A throne speech that purports to have a framework for long-term achievement in social policy, and then merely alludes to these fundamental changes and fails to take them fully into account in future governmental plans, cannot be taken very seriously as a major social or political document.

Today, in sharp contrast to several decades ago, the majority of wives have joined their husbands in the labour force. This increase in labour force participation has greatly exceeded all predictions and expectations. For example, in 1976, the Economic Council of Canada predicted there would be a less rapid rise in the number of women working in the labour force in the late 1970s and early 1980s than in the previous 15 years.

The council argued this was in part because many of the women who wanted to work had joined the labour force by 1976. The council was wrong. The rapid rise of participation in the labour force by women and, above all, by women with very young children has continued. By 1984, 52 per cent of women with children under age three were in the labour force, compared with 32 per cent in 1976. In other words, in eight years there has been a dramatic increase of 20 per cent in the number of mothers of children under age three joining the labour force.

Today it is estimated, and again perhaps even too conservatively, that 73 per cent of the mothers with children under age three will be in the labour force within the next decade. These

statistics deserve, indeed demand, far more attention than a cursory mention in any throne speech that boldly claims to set forth a framework of long-term achievement rather than a list of short-term promises. Under the circumstances, we would be better served by short-term promises.

Working mothers or, more correctly, the working parents of young children have become a major and permanent characteristic of our labour force. Sound social policy must accommodate this vital phenomenon. The obvious answer of adequate day care spaces has been cited and discussed at numerous times and in numerous places. While the throne speech makes some passing reference to increasing the number of organized day care spaces, that is not an adequate response to meet the needs of all the young families.

The most recent national day care study, chaired by Dr. Katie Cooke, recommended the introduction of free universal day care at an estimated eventual cost of about \$11 billion annually. While there is no doubt that additional space for day care is very much needed, I do not believe it is realistic to expect in the foreseeable future the kind of universal network of free day care services envisaged by Dr. Cooke's committee.

Even if we were to expand the number of organized day care spaces, it would not provide an answer for those young families with both husband and wife in the labour force, but who wish to care for their own children, especially during those very first critical bonding years. We need to introduce measures that will provide reasonable guarantees for working parents, mainly mothers, who are employees, so that having and caring for their very young children does not cost them their jobs. Conversely, keeping their jobs will not require them to abandon the essential family obligations during the early years of their children's lives.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the member could find a suitable time to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Baetz, the debate was adjourned.

The House recessed at 12 noon.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

DAY CARE

Mr. Cousens: Yesterday I addressed the federal government's special parliamentary committee on child care and presented a series of recommendations that call on the federal government to respond immediately to a comprehensive program of federal-provincial co-operation with respect to child care.

This action reflects the continuing commitment of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario to providing for increased government support in day care initiatives. We strongly believe the federal government must respond to the needs of our changing society.

Among the points made were:

1. The federal financial share, through the Canada assistance plan and the grants system, must be increased to help expand adequate day care.

2. Tax deductions for families requiring day care need to be re-evaluated to compensate for the high cost of these services for the working parent.

3. New incentives need to be developed for the expansion of work-related day care.

Improving child care in this province is one major step in responding to the changing needs of our society. Increased federal co-operation within this realm will serve to ensure its success.

TAX INFORMATION

Mr. Foulds: We in the New Democratic Party, unlike the party to my right and the opportunists opposite us, have always tried to provide real alternatives to the policies of the government of the day. That is proved by the fact that the most progressive and popular initiatives of the present government have been taken from and first appeared in our party's program.

As my party's Treasury and Economics critic, I have argued that the government should provide a complete accounting of its tax revenues and expenditures. Only with this information can we judge the full extent of the unfairness of our tax system on the ordinary Ontario family. For example, our best estimates are that the province loses \$1.5 billion in corporate tax loopholes and giveaways. To know where to begin the task of

making our taxation system more fair, this Legislature needs that information.

I have asked for this information in my replies to the last two provincial budgets and in recent correspondence with the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). The federal government has done it and other provinces have done it. It is my sincere hope that this government will publish a complete accounting of its revenues and tax expenditures with its budget next Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker: Statements, the minister—I am sorry; the member for Brantford.

DUNNVILLE DAM

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, was that déjà vu or foreshadowing?

I rise to express a concern that has been brought to my attention by the good people of Dunnville. Last April, the then Treasurer, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), travelled to Dunnville and met with a large number of municipal officials to discuss that town's proposal for restoring the dam and weirs that form such a vital part of the history of the Grand River.

Since a good part of the Grand River is in the area of the province I have the honour to represent, I am aware how useful it would be to provide an expanded facility for recreation and beautification of the whole area. To accomplish this, the town of Dunnville will need provincial funding for a marine lock railway system that will permit marine vessels once again to navigate the Grand River.

Last April, the previous government made a commitment to the town of Dunnville that it would receive the necessary funding to restore the Dunnville dam. But now the good people of Dunnville, after months of trying, have been unable to secure a commitment from the current Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) that he will honour the commitment of the previous government.

I am hopeful that the Treasurer, who like myself has a large part of the Grand River running through his riding, will do what could be seen as the fair thing to do and will honour the commitment made by the previous government to the people of Dunnville.

HELP CENTRES

Mr. Warner: Unemployed help centres in many communities throughout this province have been able to meet the immediate social and

economic needs of unemployed workers and their families, have been able to assist in the process of re-employment and have worked with other community-based organizations to establish a support network for unemployed workers and their families.

First the federal government abandoned these worthwhile centres, which had been providing a variety of useful services to many unemployed people, and now the provincial government is similarly abandoning the centres. I call on the government to reverse its decision to close the unemployed help centres and ask that it review this horrible decision and provide the necessary funds so help can be extended to those so unfortunate as to be out of work in our province.

TULIP DISPLAY

Mr. Andrewes: From time to time it is appropriate that we as members of this House offer congratulations to various public employees. I want to offer congratulations to those of the Ministry of Government Services who so carefully and studiously planted the tulips around Queen's Park.

Members will recognize that these tulips are the ongoing kindness of the government of the Netherlands. I recommend to members a stroll down the front walk towards the southerly regions of the Legislative Building.

However, as an objective observer, I must say there seems to be an unusually large number of tulips this year of one colour. Perhaps this is only a coincidence. That colour is a very deep, bright red. However, even as May melts into June, the colours will fade, the petals will find their way into the breeze and the only constancy at Queen's Park will be the deep blue of the sky.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind the House that members wishing to make statements have only 90 seconds. Please allow them that time.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) has made several glowing remarks about inspections and orders from his ministry. Cyclical inspections of the work place, which occurred on a 36-month basis, an 18-month basis and a 12-month basis, are now gone. Once a firm is placed on what is called a code 99, the company will never again be subjected to a regular cyclical inspection. The only time code 99 firms will be inspected will be when there is a critical injury or a work refusal.

Ministry policy on routine inspections is to audit the internal responsibility system and to ensure compliance with the act and the regulations. This is eliminated by code 99. Inspections not considered routine ensure that companies are given adequate notice of impending ministry visits, so that in fact there will not be any unannounced visits in the future.

The minister claims in his new policy that the unions are given notice of impending visits at the same time the company is. When I tried to find out from approximately 200 presentations made to me whether any of the unions had received any advance notice, I found they had not. The only ones getting advance notice were the companies.

2:09 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

TELEVISION AWARD

Hon. Ms. Munro: I believe the members of the House will want to join with me in congratulating one of our provincial agencies on achieving one of the highest awards in its field of endeavour.

TVOntario has won many awards over the years, some 250, which is a fitting tribute to the quality of Ontario's television and film producers and managers. Today, Wally Longul is in New York to receive the much-coveted George Foster Peabody Award, an award comparable in prestige to the Pulitzer Prize. He receives it for the TVOntario coproduction *The Final Chapter*?

The Final Chapter? is a scientific assessment of the devastating effects of nuclear war. It is one of several TVOntario learning programs that deal with science and technology, its bright and productive side as well as its darker aspects.

The George Foster Peabody Awards for excellence in public service in broadcasting recognize distinguished achievement and meritorious public service. The award for *The Final Chapter?* is the only such honour given this year to a Canadian organization.

The recent commitment of this government to TVOntario will help fuel its production of more top-quality science and technology programs such as *The Final Chapter?* Programs such as this not only provide enriched learning opportunities for the people of this province but also bring international acclaim to Ontario, its resources and capabilities.

Mrs. Marland: We join in the congratulations to Wally Longul on the announcement made this afternoon. We share in the pride of the success of TVOntario, having been the government that

established this service in Ontario. However, we do have grave concern as to the future of that service and would like to know what the current government is going to do about the shortage of funding to TVOntario.

Mr. Rae: I want to take this opportunity to congratulate TVOntario and, in particular, the producers and creative people behind the programming.

I do not think it is widely known, but the award that has been won by that group is the equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize for public broadcasting. It is a significant achievement. Those of us who believe so strongly in and are committed to public broadcasting, and in our party I think I can say our commitment goes back more than half a century to the old days of the Canadian Radio League, are proud of the achievements of TVOntario. We want very much to associate ourselves with the achievement, in which all of us can take some pride.

I also take this opportunity to say how much we are looking forward to the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) on Tuesday to see how far he will deliver on the promise made in the speech from the throne with respect to additional funding for TVOntario.

Anyone who realizes the potential of TVOntario and the potential of public broadcasting, educational broadcasting and cultural broadcasting in this province realizes we are on the verge of a time of great opportunity, great employment prospects for broadcasting and for culture and communications. It would be nothing short of a tragedy if the Treasurer were to take away at all from the steps announced in the speech from the throne with respect to funding for TVOntario.

I know the people of the province are expecting an announcement that will relate not only to this year but also to next year and the year after in terms of steady increases in funding for TVOntario. We look forward to that announcement in his budget when it comes on Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Education.

Mr. McClellan: Sufficiently rehearsed?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I do not know whether it is going to be as unrehearsed as the comments from the—

Mr. Breaugh: There was no pause written in your speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have not come to question period yet. This is statements.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am being provoked, Mr. Speaker. I was only going to say that perhaps it will not be as unrehearsed as the comments of the

caucus of the third party about the leader in the weekend press.

Mr. McClellan: Rehearsed, not reversed.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I do not like to be provoked, so I will try not to be distracted.

SCIENCE EDUCATION

Hon. Mr. Conway: The speech from the throne clearly stated this government's commitment to the twin goals of excellence and relevance in education. It also emphasized the importance of science and technology to the future prosperity of this province and its citizens.

The Ministry of Education recognizes that scientific and technological literacy is a vital part of education. Our future work and lifestyle are tied to advances in science and technology. Our education system has some excellent programs in science as a result of the commitment of our teaching profession and the efforts of local school boards. However, I believe we can do more in science education in Ontario.

The Science Council of Canada's comprehensive study of science education in 1984 concluded that elementary students are most in need of improved programs. In addition, the science council's report points out that girls require more encouragement and improved opportunities for studying science. If we improve science programs in our elementary schools, it will benefit both girls and boys and increase their scientific interest and skills.

I am pleased to announce today a \$3-million program to renew science education in the primary and junior divisions of Ontario schools. This program, which will reflect the excellent work done by the science council's study, will focus on four key areas:

1. The development of science curricula from kindergarten to grade 6 in a way that devotes more time and attention to this important area in the early school years;

2. Support for teachers at the elementary level through training and retraining in science curricula;

3. The provision of the necessary learning materials in both English and French and equipment for science education at the elementary level; and

4. A public awareness campaign in science education to encourage the support and active participation of parents, school boards and members of the public, including the private sector.

We will be consulting widely in developing this initiative. I am pleased to announce that Dr.

Graham Orpwood, who is in the special members' gallery this afternoon and who directed the Science Council of Canada study, has been appointed as my special adviser in this area for the next three months.

One of the central messages in science education must be that science is a part of all our lives. Science is not just for the scientists, the university-bound student or only for boys. Science is for everyone.

If we can successfully convey that message—and despite the carping of the third party, I believe we can—our children will be better prepared for the systematic study of science at the intermediate and senior divisions. They will be better able to link the science they study in school to the science in the world they know. Most important, our students will be better able to use science and technology to enhance their lives and those of future generations.

Mr. Baetz: We cannot help but congratulate the government on its intention to develop the science curriculum beginning at a very early age. We are amazed and astounded at the enormous perception demonstrated this afternoon by the Minister of Education in stating that science is for everyone. We had not realized that until the minister told us about it. We can only congratulate him for carrying on in the excellent tradition set by our outstanding Ministers of Education, some of whom are here.

One final observation is that the minister should try to achieve and maintain a balance between science and the humanities. I sensed in the speech from the throne perhaps a little too much of a leaning towards scientists, because he should remember science in itself does not lead to human happiness, which is the objective for all of us. We will look forward to seeing how the minister is going to achieve the balance between the humanities and the sciences with the unmentioned amounts of money he is going to spend on this program.

Mr. Harris: I have one brief comment on the statement by the Minister of Education. He neglected to tell us how much Dr. Graham Orpwood will be paid over the next three months, information I am sure the Legislature will be interested in hearing.

Mr. Rae: With respect to the profound announcement made today by the Minister of Education, I think we will now all call him Dr. Wizard. I remember, and I am sure the minister remembers, watching Dr. Wizard over the years. Listening to the minister, who has his own profound understanding of the world of science

and his deep training therein, as much as all members opposite clearly reflect their understanding, it is great to see the minister undertake this initiative.

My oldest daughter is in junior kindergarten. Last Friday her whole school had something called Space Day. We have space day every day here, so for me it is nothing different. On coming home from school that day, she asked my wife and I whether she would be able to go to the moon when she grew up. That is an indication of the very changed consciousness on the part of members.

An hon. member: Put it in the accord.

Mr. Rae: It is in the accord. Wait for it. Do not push it. At the same time, she pointed out that her friend Elizabeth had been to the moon and she wanted to join her. The kids are away ahead of the minister. He is talking about that, and these kids want to go to the moon. I think the minister had better catch up with the kids, the young girls and boys who are far ahead. Join them and the time will come for it.

Mr. Allen: In pursuing this objective, a highly laudable one which I have personally advocated on many occasions as the Education critic for our party, I hope the Minister of Education will take advantage of TVOntario's new enrichment and possibilities to field the whole question of science education through audio-visual devices and programs, as some other countries do most effectively with their young children.

I compliment the minister on his choice of adviser in this respect. He could not have done better. We know the commitment Dr. Graham Orpwood has in this regard, so we are looking for good things in this program.

I remind the minister that some fundamental underlay is needed for this in more than just the creation of a program. The school system, in terms of its textbook capacity and spending per student under the past administration, is the lowest in the whole country. He will have to do something about that. He will have to make sure he has a good supply of science teachers from the core programs of sciences in the universities. It will take some basic core funding improvements to field both the educational initiatives and the broad ambitions of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) with regard to the whole span of science and technology. The government has a great future ahead of it in this respect, and I hope it will fund it well. Otherwise, it will not work out.

2:23 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Premier and it relates to a quote in the newspaper. Can the Premier tell the House whether he was correctly quoted when he said with regard to the rally in front of Queen's Park yesterday, "Frankly, it is irrelevant to me whether there are 10 or 10,000 or 100,000"?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was correctly quoted.

Mr. Grossman: I wonder therefore whether the new message handed out by the Premier, in a government which he alleges has no walls or barriers, is that if 10,000 or 100,000 single mothers or 10,000 or 100,000 injured workers wish to demonstrate in front of Queen's Park, the Premier equally does not care whether there are 10, 10,000 or 100,000.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I welcome people to come to Queen's Park to express their point of view. That is part of our democratic tradition here, and it is a legitimate expression of their opinion. However, I remind the member at the very same time that this is not a government that changes its mind with each little poll that comes along. It does not change its mind from day to day. It is not a government that has different views from the member's left-hand man sitting beside him and then from the member the next day.

We do not have that kind of inconstancy. Frankly, with regard to changing our minds, it does not matter how many people gather there or how many people present a petition. We believe we have a responsibility to govern with an even hand and with a degree of constancy. Surely my honourable friend, my worthy friend opposite, would learn the peril of inconstancy which is constant from him and his colleagues.

Mr. Grossman: I remind the Premier that we remember when opting out was at 18 per cent, and he and his party were in favour of extra billing.

Two of his ministers have flip-flopped all over the place on the issue of bacillus thuringiensis spraying. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has flip-flopped all over on the issue of chemicals in the waters. The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaitre) has flip-flopped all over on the issue of guarantees of French-language services. No one in this House needs a lecture from the Premier on flip-flopping.

Mr. Speaker: Was your question, "Do you agree"? Was that your question?

Mr. Grossman: No. It was not.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary. Quickly.

Mr. Grossman: At the rally yesterday, where the Premier did not care how many people were out front, Dr. Myers said: "We are prepared to accept a call for a truce. I challenge Mr. Peterson to initiate a movement towards peace in a situation where he has provoked confrontation."

If the Premier heard those comments as he peeked out his window to watch the rally, can he tell us whether he or the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) called the Ontario Medical Association and asked: "What terms? How can we discuss the truce you asked for?"

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me add parenthetically that before the member left government, he arranged for a substantial increase in research funds for all the parties of \$2 million, \$3 million or \$4 million, or whatever it was. We are very grateful, because the entire research department of our party is devoted to tracking the member's various positions from day to day on all the issues. We do need those funds to keep track of where he is on the issues.

Let me respond to the member's particular point. He will recall—and it is important to go through the history of this situation—that shortly after we assumed office in July 1985, we contacted the OMA and said we were going to ban extra billing and would like to enter into discussions on how to do that. It was not prepared to talk about that. Finally, legislation came in late in December 1985. There have been a number of meetings subsequent to that time. We have put forward very specific written proposals, and it knows where we stand on the issues.

Just because the member has not been at those meetings does not mean they have not been held. I can assure him that on a number of occasions the tone has been very constructive.

Mr. Grossman: Supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is no need for another supplementary. New question.

Mr. Grossman: They are waiting for a call for a truce, and the Premier will not call and offer a truce.

DAY CARE

Mr. Grossman: My second question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I hope the minister will have heard by now the very sensible recommendations made by the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) with regard to child care.

My colleague suggested that additional money be allocated to provide more subsidies to low-income families, that provincial grants to licensed nonprofit spaces be matched, that provincial capital and startup grants for nonprofit centres be matched, that the child care expense deduction be eliminated to free up funds to expand services and that incentives be provided for employers and employees to develop work-related day care spaces.

Does the minister not agree that these are excellent suggestions, each and every one of which is worthy of support?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I agree they are excellent suggestions, and I point out to the honourable member who just made them that they are being implemented by this government. I remind him that on taking over this government, we increased the number of subsidized spaces by 50 per cent above and beyond what it had done in 40 years.

Mr. Cousens: While the minister makes promising statements on child care to the press and the other media, his government had only a single sentence on child care in the speech from the throne. Has the minister lost the battle with the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) in making a significant investment in child care?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The critical issues with respect to child care are to have sufficient spaces so that parents can make a choice and to have them structured in such a way that all parents who use child care can afford to do so. That is precisely what the statement in the speech from the throne addressed itself to: first, spaces and the availability of those spaces, and second, spaces provided on the basis of economic equity; in other words, so they could afford them. That was the purpose of the statement, and that is what will be addressed.

Mr. Cousens: It was not as strong as the minister is now. When can we expect this highly publicized white paper on child care that provides for licensed child care spaces to 50 per cent of Ontario's children?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Soon.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier about extra billing. It is time we got on with it.

Given the statement yesterday by Dr. Myers that he does not intend to make any further changes in the position of the Ontario Medical Association and the correspondence between Dr.

Scully and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) which has been made public and establishes very clearly that the same positions have been going back and forth not for a couple of weeks but for several months, well prior to December, does the Premier not think it is time to bring the bill out of committee, where the hearings have been completed, and bring it into committee of the whole House?

Let us get on with it. Let us pass the legislation, stop the dithering and confusion and get on with the end to extra billing, which is costing this province so much.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the honourable member's question is no. I do not think it is the right time, but it is perhaps getting close to that right time. More meetings are scheduled, in spite of the speeches of yesterday. I read about them in today's press and am aware of what they said. I am also aware of the discussions that have been going on.

I am sure the leader of the third party will be the first one to acknowledge that a resolution to the problem will not be found by shouting at each other on the front steps of Queen's Park. I acknowledge that, and I think the doctors acknowledge that. The minister has other meetings scheduled, and we will have to judge that day by day. If we come to the conclusion that no progress can be made, the suggestion of the leader of the third party will be followed.

Mr. Rae: These discussions have been going on for several weeks now. It is clear not only from statements in the newspaper but also from actual correspondence between the OMA and the government negotiators that there has been absolutely no change in position with respect to the fundamental question on extra billing, either by the OMA or by the government, with respect to what has happened.

Does the Premier not realize that his own indecision is becoming the problem? Does he not realize it is his indecision that is getting in the way? The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) has spoken about the need to bring on the legislation. The Attorney General has made his indications. Does the Premier not realize he is now the person who is standing in the way of reaching an end to this?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to the honourable member with respect that I do not accept that proposition at all. He is quite wrong. If we had followed his approach, if we had just brought it in three months ago and let the devil take the hindmost, the situation would have been a lot worse.

Mr. Martel: What is the difference?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is the approach the third party is taking. As one who comes from a long tradition of believing in so-called free discussions and negotiation, I am a little surprised at the member for taking that view. We have to make these judgements as they come, and the minister has handled this situation extremely well.

Mr. Rae: The Premier's position is that if we pass the bill, which he wrote, drafted and introduced, that would be the worst possible thing we could do. That is a bizarre position for a government to take, but now we have that as the stated position of the Premier.

My colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) has a constituent who telephoned him. She is expecting a baby in June, obstetrician said it is going to cost her an extra \$800 to have that child. Does she have to change doctors, or are we going to have an end to extra billing by the time she has her baby?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot tell the member the answer to that question. What time in June? Is that going to be early in June? I cannot give him the specific date. I just hope the baby is not premature.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Swart: I want to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I draw his attention to a sentence in the Slater report, which is subsequent to a discussion on the liability risk and the huge premium increases. That short sentence reads, "It does seem clear that there is an element of overreaction to the situation on the part of the insurance industry."

Given that statement implying rates may already be too high and given that he will not be dealing with that report until well on in the fall, is the minister going to sit idly by until the fall and not raise a finger to cap or require justification of the new round of massive rate hikes, which are already starting?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I welcome the member's question. Several allusions have been made to the fact that we are not going to do anything until next fall, but that is not correct. I am giving the public and anyone involved in the industry until the end of July to respond. Having said that, we are and have been anticipating some of the replies from Dr. Slater and are working on them right now.

Mr. Swart: I suggest that vague answer is not good enough.

Does the minister know the 130 hospitals that insure through the Ontario Hospital Association had an increase in their liability rates last year of 362 per cent? Is he aware that in the submission to our insurance study committee less than three weeks ago, the association had enough information to predict another increase, which will bring the total increase to more than 600 per cent?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Are you aware, Minister?

Mr. Swart: May I put my question?

Mr. Speaker: You asked twice, "Are you aware." Are you aware, Minister?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am aware.

Mr. Swart: Does the minister not think the hospitals have more worthy needs than enriching insurance companies? Will he tell this House he is going to require justification before those hikes can be implemented on July 1?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We are reviewing all of the report that Dr. Slater recommended to us. We will be taking action on his recommendations.

Mr. Swart: When?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Some we will move on immediately, some we will move on after we get input and some we will deal with once we have the data.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Gillies: In view of the absence of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), I will ask my question of the Premier.

The Premier may be aware that his get-tough Minister of Labour issued a work place safety order against Metro Toronto's main sewage treatment plant. That order comes into effect tomorrow. Very important changes to the ventilation system are needed in that plant. The existing situation is presenting a threat to the health and safety of the workers there.

Is the Premier's get-tough Minister of Labour going to prosecute if the order is not complied with tomorrow, or is he going to reissue the order against the plant as he has said repeatedly in this House he will not do?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sorry I cannot help the member, but I will ask the Minister of Labour, who is on top of these situations and demonstrating in this matter leadership such as we have not seen in Ontario for several decades. He will get back to the member.

Mr. Gillies: I hope the Premier will apprise the minister of the situation and perhaps advise the minister that his Rambo rhetoric is not

solving the problems that exist in the work place in Ontario.

Is the Premier aware that because of the ventilation system in this plant, the workers are having to work at least part of their shift every day wearing 20-pound respirators? They have had to do this for three months, and Metro is saying it cannot have the necessary ventilation equipment in place for another six months. Is it the Premier's wish that these workers lug around 20-pound respirators for another six months, or is it his wish that his minister will take action?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The minister will take action on this and on many other matters that have been neglected for a long time. I thank the member for his new-found concern on these issues.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Can he verify whether Rexnord Canada Ltd., an American-owned multinational corporation, which is closing its plant in North York and laying off its workers, has applied to remove \$310,000 from the hourly rated workers' pension plan, members of United Steelworkers Local 5465, \$3,213,000 from the salaried workers' pension plan and \$572,000 from the pension plan of Mathews, a Rexnord-owned company in Port Hope represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am not aware of that incident, but I will be very pleased to follow up on it and find out what I can about it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Can the minister tell us whether he approves of this kind of legalized theft? Will he tell this House whether he has decided that pensions are no longer deferred wages, contrary to the position he took in this House on January 13, 1986?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: On that issue, as the member knows, one challenge is before the courts. The position we have taken—and we have taken it in our draft legislation on the Pension Benefits Act—is that if the contractual arrangement between the employers and the employees allows for the removal of surplus funds, then with the approval of the Pension Commission of Ontario it can be done. We have now made provisions that, notwithstanding the fact that there is no provision prior to this, any removal must be done with notification to all those people concerned.

FASHION SHOW

Ms. Fish: My question is of the Premier. He will be aware that today marks the first full day of the 1986 Festival of Canadian Fashion, a festival that showcases the up-and-coming designers as well as the established ones, such as Shelley Wickabrod and Bernard McGee of Clotheslines Inc. and Alfred Sung, in an industry that represents a trade deficit for us of about \$3 billion.

Can the Premier tell me why, in the face of that highly successful and terribly important trade show for a major industry, his government has classified it as an amusement and raised the admission prices by 10 per cent by collecting an amusement tax?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I know of the honourable member's interest in fashion, but I cannot tell her the answer to that. I was not aware of it.

Ms. Fish: The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology has promoted this very extensively as a trade fair. In fact, in Ontario Business News, on a famous page 3, is a picture of the logo of the trade fair on a sweatshirt on a mannequin of a woman who unfortunately is wearing nothing but a sweatshirt in the picture taken by government photographers.

Will the Premier please tell me and the women of this province whether, by taxing this show as an amusement and by putting out another page 3, he is not really saying that Canadian fashion is just a girlie amusement show?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not familiar with the picture the member talks about. She can send it over and I will have a look at it.

The industry is an important one; it is a growing one. If the member finds this offensive, I am sorry for that. I do not know who drafted up this magazine. All I can say is that my wife frequently wears just a sweatshirt; I do not find it offensive, but others may.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for St. George has already placed her supplementary.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. McClellan: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations on the same subject, the legalized theft of so-called pension surpluses. The minister maintains the fiction that pension plan surplus withdrawals are a result of contractual arrangements, whereas he knows the plans are imposed by companies on the work force.

I am sure the minister is also aware that the latest figures from the Pension Commission of Ontario show that between April 1, 1985, and January 1, 1986, \$187,142,000 was taken out of workers' pension funds and stuffed into the pockets of the companies.

Why has the minister continued to allow this legalized theft to take place, even under the aegis of his new Pension Benefits Act, instead of using the deferred wages in excess of actuarial value—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. McClellan: —to provide inflation protection for workers?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member maintains it is legalized theft—

Mr. McClellan: Of course it is.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: It is the member's opinion that it is legalized theft. In the opinion of the pension commission, after careful documentation and examination, the withdrawals are within the purview of the agreement, and it does not look at it as legalized theft.

Mr. McClellan: Whose money is it?

Mr. Martel: Is it the companies' money?

Mr. McClellan: The minister is aware whose money it is.

I am sure the minister will be aware that at today's inflation rate, which is the lowest inflation rate we have seen in many years, a \$100 deferred pension benefit at age 30 will be worth \$25 at age 65. Since the minister has continued to allow surplus funds to be ripped off under his proposed legislation, what advice does he have for a 30-year-old worker who stands to lose 75 cents of every dollar that he owns in pension benefits at this time?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would like to bring all members of the House up to date as to a situation. With a defined benefit plan, the workers know what they can expect from their pension plan. We have a situation we are dealing with right now. If we have a company that has an unfunded liability of several hundreds of thousands of dollars, no one will go to the workers and say, "You have to make up the difference in that fund because the company cannot afford to do it."

Mr. Rae: The minister is going to have the fight of his life on this one; he is not going to know what hit him.

Mr. Warner: Monte Kwinter, CA—corporate apologist.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member has to understand that we are aware of the problem. We are making sure that the plans are not arbitrarily stolen from, as he says, that the provisions in the plan are honoured and that they are done under the scrutiny of the Pension Benefits Act with responsibility.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister has destroyed the pension plans in the work place.

Mr. Laughren: He does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

SPRAY PROGRAM

Mr. Harris: In view of the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), I have a question for the Premier, who no doubt will be aware of the confusion and the bungling with this year's insecticide spraying program.

The ministry told Ontario aerial applicators, by letter of January 13, to "secure appropriate aircraft and licensed pilots as soon as possible." Many of them did just that. Can the Premier explain why a Quebec firm has been given 80 to 90 per cent of the work and why dozens of planes are being imported from the United States, when many of these Ontario operators who did what the ministry directed back in January were given little or no work at all?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, I want to honourable member to know that we in this government do not have a policy that discriminates against Quebec aircraft, and I hope he will not ask us to build provincial barriers in this province.

Second, he will be aware that the spraying program this year has about six times the number of aircraft it did in 1985 because of the expanded programs. In essence, this says there are not enough aircraft in this province and in this country to meet all the requirements that have to be met on an emergency basis. I am told that 16 per cent of the aircraft, 165 of them, are registered in the United States, but because of the emergency situation they were brought in here.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Harris: I am sure the Premier has been well briefed on this. When things get this fouled up, he usually is briefed. The Premier will know that many of these contracts have been cut back. Some were given where firms were not invited to bid. Some have been added on. On some, payments were made at a higher price than the bid submitted. We are told all these things are going on. Tibor Ribí, an Ontario operator, is here

in the gallery today. He believed the government notice of January.

Mr. Speaker: And the supplementary is?

Mr. Harris: Mr. Ribí believed the ministry notice and bought a new plane, but now he cannot get any work in Ontario with all the American planes here. What is the Premier going to do for him? Mr. Ribí followed the rules and now is facing bankruptcy.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Ribí bid on three of a possible 25 contracts. His bids ranged from 50 per cent to 100 per cent higher than the lowest bids. If the member's position is that we should not contract these out or that we should pay twice the lowest bids, then that is an interesting proposition. I do not know the circumstances under which Mr. Ribí committed himself to planes and other things.

When I was in opposition, I dealt with Mr. Ribí on a number of problems he had with the previous government. I am not in a position to tell him how to conduct his business. We have an open tender system. That is the way it worked, and that is why he did not get the contracts.

FREE TRADE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Premier regarding to the negotiation of the free trade agreement. In the past, both he and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) have refused to answer questions about what they would do in the hypothetical case that the auto pact is put on the table by the federal government. With the talks two weeks away, we now know the federal government is intending to put the auto pact on the table for discussion with the United States.

Will the Premier give us the assurance that his government will ask the federal government either to withdraw from the talks or at the least to suspend the talks until the federal and provincial governments have their act together and the provincial governments have had a chance to explain their position on what should be done on this major issue?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not think the member's suggestion is constructive. At this point, neither President Reagan nor Peter Murphy is going to listen to me talking about the role or posture of the American government with respect to discussions with our federal government. I will give the member the assurance that we will be extremely vigilant in the protection of our interests. We have seen that demonstrated in the past, and will see it demonstrated in the future. The auto pact is of fundamental impor-

ance to Ontario. We recognize that, and that is why we are fighting for it.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Mr. Reisman has been quoted as saying, "I continue to operate...on the assumption that it is the federal government that is responsible for the conduct of international negotiations in the trade field."

In view of this statement and in view of the refusal of the Prime Minister to discuss the trade negotiations with the Premiers when they had the opportunity to do so in Vancouver last week, it seems clear the provinces have no role in the free trade negotiations. Will the Premier and his government indicate they will not support free trade negotiations or any agreement until there has been full participation and agreement on the part of all the provinces?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The House is very much aware of our position on this matter. We should be sorting out the domestic role. We have put the proposition in very constructive terms to the federal government. The member is suggesting that we drop a bomb into the middle of it or just refuse to show up or not talk to anybody until there is a resolution of these matters.

There are a number of substantive process issues outstanding that I can assure the member are of great concern to me and to my peers across this country. I have discussed this with Premier Pawley, Premier Bennett and others. We are of one mind on this issue. We are now waiting for a response from Prime Minister Mulroney with respect to the proposals we put to him. As the member knows, the Prime Minister is in the Orient. We hope he will be home soon to deal with these issues.

It is of concern to us that there has not been a response from the federal government on these issues. That proves to me that we have to be there watching what is going on all the time. We should not threaten to take our baseball bat and run away. That is not appropriate at the moment. We reserve our right to protect this province's position over the long term. We will do that.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Cordiano: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment on another matter dealing with the United States. In view of the fact that the US authorities appear to be backing down on their commitment of funds to address the acid rain control program, what action are we in Canada taking to ensure that the commitment made is met by the Americans?

Mr. Grossman: Pretend it is a new question. Pretend you did not write it.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is a good question, one of the better questions I have heard in this House.

As the members will be aware, an announcement was made some time ago after the summit meeting between the Prime Minister and the President of the US. There was a concession by the President of the US that acid rain was a transboundary problem. In addition, discussion of a \$5-billion program emerged from it, which in essence is clean-coal technology.

I agree with the member that there have been reports recently that there seems to be some backsliding on that commitment on the part of the US. The federal Minister of the Environment and I have made representations, including personal representations, to members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives so the action that can be taken may be generated at the legislative level as opposed to the administrative level. It is obvious there has not been the activity at the administrative level that we feel is necessary.

Mr. Cordiano: Is the Ministry of the Environment prepared to take court action in the US to ensure that the Americans do their part to solve this problem?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The members of the House may be away—may be aware—

Mr. Grossman: The cabinet is away.

Mr. Rae: We are all here.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I see the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) is not here, and for once the Conservative members have not filled the seat behind him so that on camera it will look as if everybody is here on those benches. However, that was not the question.

Mr. Speaker: It had nothing to do with the question.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The question relates to the action we have taken. We have joined in two actions in the US involving the Environmental Protection Agency, which would have the effect of reducing the ability, particularly on the part of Midwest utilities, to continue to belch out sulphur dioxide emissions as they have done for some time. It appears the legislative route is rather slow, and the administrative route appears not to be moving at all in this direction. The court route appears to be the most productive in this case. That is why we have joined in this action in the US in the hope that we will see an actual abatement program as opposed to just clean-coal technology, which will not solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Gillies: Thank the guest speaker.

Mr. Grossman: And his straight man.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Treasurer, who was here when that oration—there he is; I thought he might be writing a question for one of his other back-benchers.

In today's press reports, unbelievably, the Treasurer is quoted as saying, "I do not think we hit the consuming public very hard in our last budget." I remind the Treasurer that what he does not consider hitting the taxpayers very hard was a \$700-million tax hit in his first budget. Given that on a per capita basis that increase was substantially higher than the one the federal government brought in with its last budget and given the approximately \$3-billion nest egg which the Treasurer finds himself with, will he make a commitment to the taxpayers of this province that he will not raise taxes further next Tuesday?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am sure the Leader of the Opposition knows that the comments in the press were based on a question about taxes on beer, alcohol and tobacco. He also knows that some of his colleagues were quite bitterly critical of the fact that tobacco taxes were not raised as much as they thought they should be. The record is clear on that. When I said the increases were not as large as they might have been, it was a direct response to questions dealing with those products.

Mr. Grossman: Is the Treasurer telling us he acknowledges that he hit corporate income tax, personal income tax, gasoline tax and land transfer tax hard enough in the last budget, and with \$3 billion available and tobacco and liquor targeted, he need not raise again any of the four taxes he raised last fall or the retail sales tax?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am sure the honourable member is aware that the financial situation we inherited required going to the people for additional financial support. We did have revenue changes that were substantial in nature. It is not a question of acknowledging that. It is factual.

When it comes to a request from the Leader of the Opposition and former Treasurer for some sort of commitment now, a few days before the budget, as to what the tax action will be, that demonstrates a certain lack of understanding of the system. Of course I am not making that commitment.

WATER QUALITY

Mrs. Grier: I want to raise the question of drinking water standards once again with the Minister of the Environment. Despite the presence of numerous chlorinated organics in samples taken within Metropolitan Toronto, we continue to have the same kinds of assurances from officials of his ministry as we had under the previous administration that the quality of drinking water is improving and that no guidelines have been violated.

If that is the case, is the minister prepared to follow the suggestion I made in the Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act, tabled in November 1985, and make those guidelines law and give us the right to sue if we find those guidelines have been exceeded?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member raises an interesting and valid observation with regard to drinking water around the province. I do not think anybody considers finding any of these substances in our water acceptable. The recent report that came out on toxic rain indicated there are multiple sources, in many cases coming from stacks, either through dry deposition or toxic rain. The other source is effluent going into waterways that ultimately come into the plant.

In regard to the member's specific question about standards—I knew I would get around to that eventually—there is no question that, in conjunction with our federal colleagues and our colleagues from other provinces through the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers, and in conjunction with authorities on the other side of the border and with the World Health Organization, we are developing standards on an ongoing basis that people consider acceptable. That development has to be accelerated considerably.

Mr. Grossman: Is this an old Jimmy Auld answer?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In Sarnia, the Leader of the Opposition said this was a yuppie issue.

Mr. Grossman: Do not get off track.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Yesterday I made a comment reminding all members that they were to disregard interjections, which are out of order.

Mrs. Grier: If the minister has done such an extensive examination of guidelines and jurisdictions all around the world, no doubt he is aware that in many of those guidelines, health effects are not the only criterion used in the establishment of standards. Can the minister assure this House that when the long-awaited day arrives that we have some standards in this province,

those standards will take only public health considerations into account and the level for carcinogens such as dioxin will be zero?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We will want to take into consideration all the factors the member has mentioned. I think she recognizes this is not simply a Toronto question, nor is it something in which only the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Minister of the Environment and the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) are interested. All members of the House are interested.

We have to develop that. Our goal in this province and across our nation is to remove all the persistent toxic substances. That is translated in other areas as saying that we are working towards zero discharge so that ultimately we will reach the goal the member and I share.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. McCague: I have a question for the Premier. Given his commitment to open, accessible and no-walls, no-barriers government, why has his government refused to respond to 33 questions that have been standing in Orders and Notices for five to seven months and 26 that have been there for more than 60 days?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are not afraid to answer any questions. Some of the ones I have seen are frivolous. If members want to amuse themselves that way, it is okay with us. We do not mind providing this information. We are happy to do it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I recommend the member read some of the questions his party has asked. They are unbelievably silly. However, we are happy to answer them. As he knows, it takes time to gather up some of the things members want, but we are happy to provide them. Maybe the honourable opposition House leader could be more constructive.

Interjections.

Mr. McCague: It is not the questions that are frivolous; it is the answers. However, the government has more than 81,000 civil servants; maybe it will get around to it eventually.

Rather than paying lip service to his pledge of accessibility, why has he not made public nine orders in council, which I understand are appointments. They are orders in council 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 1009, 1014, 1015 and 1016, which were passed April 17, 1986. Why does he continue to hide this information from public view?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, I do not know the specific orders in council. Maybe we appointed Tories and were embarrassed about it. I have no idea what the answer is.

Let me remind the member what we have done. We have made public all the appointments that are available, which was never done by the previous government. It has been tabled in this House. It is all open for everyone to see. If my honourable friend wants to send down his researcher, he is welcome to do so.

I ask members to scrutinize appointments. We have brought people from all walks of life to serve—some of the finest people in this province. We have reformed the faith people have in this system, because the previous government had driven it down so low.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure you all want to listen to the member for Sudbury East with a question.

PRISON FACILITIES

Mr. Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services.

An hon. member: We listened all morning.

Mr. Martel: It was good stuff too, was it not?

With massive unemployment across northern Ontario and with the government not having any policy in place to reduce that, can the minister indicate whether his government is prepared to put \$13.9 million into the creation of 200 to 225 permanent jobs by reopening the Burwash facility rather than considering the expansion of the overcrowded facilities in southern Ontario?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: We do not intend to expend funds without looking at the long-range consequences, which is contrary to what the previous government did when it completed a facility in 1975 and immediately closed the same site a few months later. Looking at the long-range corporate plan of the Ministry of Correctional Services, we have decided where in the province we need certain types of facilities. At the moment, Burwash does not appear to be the most appropriate place to expend funds, but we are looking at the appropriate use of government dollars in that area.

Mr. Martel: Quite frankly, the minister does not sound different from the Tories.

Since the deputy minister presented a somewhat biased, pro-expansion program for the south, as opposed to the introduction of facilities in the north, and recommended that prisoners from the north can still come to southern Ontario

to be incarcerated rather than vice versa, and since the government does not have a policy for northern development, does the minister not think it is time he took \$13.9 million and created some 225 jobs in the Sudbury basin rather than have a \$20-million—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: We have a policy for northern development. I am concerned about the policies of my ministry. We have plans that look at the north and that will be expending moneys and creating jobs in the north in the field of correctional services. At the moment, there are plans before Management Board of Cabinet which will attest to that. I am sure they will be acted upon very shortly.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Curling: On Tuesday, May 6, I promised to get back to the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) on two aspects of Bill 11, the Rental Housing Protection Act.

First, the honourable member asked whether the act would permit an appeal of the recent Ontario Municipal Board decision allowing the severance of row housing at Overbrook and Carlington Park in Ottawa. The answer is no, the decision cannot be appealed to cabinet. The decision was reached on February 19, 1986. The board's approval is final under the law and the policy in effect at that time.

The second question relates to a building, the Bonaventure, which the owner is apparently trying to turn into a so-called apartment-hotel. Under Bill 11, all conversions to commercial use and all renovations requiring eviction will require municipal approval and therefore will be appealable to the Ontario Municipal Board and then to cabinet.

If the building in question is being converted to a hotel, that will be a commercial use, and the conversion will require municipal approval. If the apartment-hotel is classed as a residential use, the building will continue to be subject to rent review. The rent review legislation that is currently before the House, Bill 78, contains a provision designed to prevent landlords from removing their buildings from rent review through apartment-hotel conversion.

I believe that responds to the questions the member raised.

Mr. Speaker: On previous occasions I have reminded members and ministers about the length of questions and responses. I am going to

add a minute to the question period. That was fairly long.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have a great deal of sympathy with your ruling in this regard, but obviously the answer required a detailed and specific answer since the question involved addresses and locations. If you are going to rule that, surely you should indicate when the question is asked that it is an Orders and Notices question. Then the problem would not arise.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Gigantes: I would be quite content to treat it as a policy matter—

Mr. Speaker: I would like to hear a supplementary.

Ms. Gigantes: —because they were raised as examples that would indicate policies.

Given these examples and given the minister's responses, does he not accept that unless he retroactively brings in the provisions of Bill 11 over the next few weeks, every building and every unit to which Bill 11 could be applied is going to be up for grabs in terms of applications? Unless there is some element of retroactivity, precisely what he has described as the situation—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I think the honourable member is saying Bill 11 is urgent. I hope she does not hold it up. The longer we hold up this bill, the more cases such as these will go through. I encourage the members of the New Democratic Party and of the official opposition to pass Bill 11 as quickly as possible so these things will not happen.

CANCER TREATMENT CENTRE

Mr. Gordon: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation has been adamant in saying that it refuses to put up its one third of the funding for the new northeastern Ontario cancer treatment centre to be built in Sudbury. The minister indicated in this House that he would work with his colleague the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) to set the matter straight. Will the minister provide the one third of the funding that the foundation is refusing to come forward with so the northeastern Ontario cancer treatment centre can be built?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I would like this question to be answered by the Minister of Health, because he is already having discussions.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am pleased to receive the question. We have undertaken discussions with the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation with respect to the matters arising in regard to Sudbury. I have had communications with a number of people engaged in practice in the Sudbury clinic, and we are currently making progress with respect to planning the facility. In fact, we have given an undertaking to the community of Sudbury that the facility will go ahead.

Mr. Gordon: Perhaps I should direct this to the Minister of Health since it was referred to him. It has been stated in this House that this government is expecting a windfall of more than \$3 billion in revenue. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will probably be talking about it next Tuesday. I remind the minister that the present cancer patient load in Sudbury is what it was projected to be in the year 2000; however, it is happening right now in Sudbury. We have cancer patients coming from all over northeastern Ontario. They also have to come to Toronto and suffer the injustice of being away from family and friends.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gordon: I will place my question.

Mr. Speaker: Please place it.

Mr. Gordon: Will the minister make a commitment to the people of northern Ontario that no matter what goes on in the discussions between the government and the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, he is prepared to see that there is a full-fledged cancer treatment centre in Sudbury, with all three modalities, and that the necessary programming that has to go on will occur?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure exactly what the member wants to get at further than what I have just said. We have proceeded to planning for the implementation and building of that facility. I am in discussions with the foundation, and we are coming to grips with not only that facility in Sudbury but in effect also the role study report done for cancer services around the province. We are making progress on that. Planning has not been held up, and that facility will go ahead.

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Health about the problem my colleague the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) raised. It has to do with the very strong feeling in the Sudbury community, including the board of directors at Laurentian Hospital where the cancer treatment centre will be located, that the attitude of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research

Foundation is such that virtually all the resources and money made available will go to the Princess Margaret Hospital rather than to the cancer treatment centre in Sudbury and other places in Ontario that require it. Will the minister ensure that this does not happen, and will he meet with the board of Laurentian Hospital, along with the northeastern Ontario oncology program and the local members, to resolve that problem?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elson: The honourable gentleman has raised this concern with me, and along with the other members from the Sudbury area, has been in the forefront in expressing the concern about this problem. It is not a new item. I want to reaffirm my position that financial assistance will be available.

Although I cannot guarantee where the foundation will put all its money—I do not know that his assumption about its putting all the money at Princess Margaret is correct—we are making progress with respect to arrangements that will address the needs of the Sudbury basin, and I can assure the members here that those items of progress are real.

Mr. Laughren: I do not think the minister understands how serious the problem is. I would like to quote very briefly from a letter from the acting director of the northeastern Ontario oncology program to Dr. Meakin, the executive director of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, in which he states:

"It is only fair to let you know that unless a more realistic understanding of these difficulties is attained and unless adequate measures are implemented now to satisfactorily resolve them, we will be forced to resign and to leave Sudbury."

The problem is very serious, and I ask the minister whether he will now set a date to meet with the board and with the local members to resolve this problem before it goes any further.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I cannot set a date at this time, right on the spur of the moment; I do not know what my schedule is. I can say to the member for Nickel Belt, whom I always enjoy hearing from, that people from my office have been in touch with board members and have spoken directly to the good doctor just quoted. We are well aware of the circumstances about which the member has provided information. We are making progress, and I will advise with respect to meeting dates at a later time directly to the three members.

FASHION SHOW

Hon. Mr. Peterson: A question was asked by the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) a little earlier. Perhaps I can respond to her to set her mind at rest. She is worried that the fashion show is treated as an amusement subject to amusement tax.

I remind the member that all shows of this type are subject to the so-called amusement tax. Perhaps this is a misnomer, but home shows, boat shows, ski shows, sportsmen's shows and all similar operations, all of which are industries extremely important to this province, are subject to that tax. Therefore, this fashion show was treated no differently from any other one.

We have a number of representatives there. I am told the Ontario government was lauded for its support of the fashion festival. We brought 50 buyers from the United States and subsidized more than 75 booths in the show. From what I hear, they were delighted at the leadership displayed by this government.

Ms. Fish: Is the Premier not aware that the show's organizers requested the tax-exempt status that Ministers of Revenue are able to provide and have provided on other occasions? Does the Premier still stand behind page 3 of the official publication of his ministry, which he feels has been so terribly supportive?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With respect to the first question, that is the tax policy of the province. The responsibility is to gather up those moneys. Requests come to government every single day; I am sure the member is aware of that. However, the policy is administered with an even hand.

I was not aware of this picture, but I guess it is a matter of judgement. The member finds this offensive. I suspect she would be offended every day she opened the Toronto Sun and many other magazines—the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star too, for that matter. That is fair enough. If the member is offended by this, I am mindful of the kinds of things she is trying to raise. However, I am not sure her view on this particular photograph would be shared by a lot of other people.

That having been said, there is no place for sexism in this or any other instrument of government. I am told that last night there was a fashion show and there were no male models there; there were only female models. The member may have been offended by that too.

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. When we talk about festivals, I hope the minister will be

promoting our Tulip Festival in the Ottawa-Carleton area. I know he will be very supportive of that.

My question relates to a report the minister received in January from the president of Algonquin College in the city of Nepean as to a proposal for a new tourism and hospitality facility there. Over the past few years, as the minister knows, existing tourism programs in the business school have been overfilled; in other words, all the applicants could not be accepted. In addition, two or three jobs have been available for each of the graduates.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, your question is.

Mr. Sterling: We appreciate that—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question?

Mr. Sterling: Yes. I heard in the throne speech many promises for the tourism industry. I hope the government will do something of substance—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member take his seat. The throne speech debate will continue after question period.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. Jackson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Why is the Premier (Mr. Peterson) unable to respond to the question I raised in the House three days ago when he was able to respond to an earlier speaker today so quickly? The question I raised concerns 150 students whose employment is in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You may place that at the next sitting.

Mr. Bernier: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I appeal to you because I think my privileges as a member of this House have been abused. On December 9, I placed question 141 in the Orders and Notices.

On December 19, I received a letter from the secretary of cabinet, who said: "There will be additional time required to prepare the response to the above question. A final answer will be tabled on or about February 28, 1986." I waited a considerable amount of time, and on April 8, 1986, I wrote to the secretary of cabinet and asked if he would reply to my question. To this date I have not received a response.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you for putting that on the record. It is not a point of privilege, but it could be a point of order. I believe the standing orders say there must be a response within a certain length of time. You have acted correctly by placing it on the record.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: During question period today the government House leader (Mr. Nixon) took a minute or so of our question period time to admonish—I am not sure—on standing order 29(a). I would like to comment on that.

Standing order 29(a) reads, "If in the opinion of the minister or the Speaker the question requires a lengthy answer, either the minister or the Speaker may require it to be placed on the Orders and Notices paper." There is the remedy for the ministers on that side of the House.

Second, the minister may take it as notice, but he cannot both answer it and take it as notice. Third, where it requires a lengthy statement, it is a statement.

Mr. Speaker, you ruled quite correctly today. You were well in order, and I think 29(a) covers the situation very well for all parties concerned.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Leluk: I have a petition signed by 700 Ontario residents of Etobicoke, Toronto, Scarborough, Thornhill, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Catharines and Welland. It was forwarded to my office by the Canadian Automobile Association and it reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a similar petition to that just presented. It is signed by 40 people or their representatives in the great riding of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. It reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 65, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre, first reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act and the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: This legislation implements the request of the council of the regional municipality of Sudbury to reassess all property within the regional area to a common base by property class. It provides companion amendments in the method of taxation to allow the lower-tier municipalities, the regional municipality and the school boards to levy a common residential mill rate and a common commercial mill rate within each of their jurisdictions. It also allows the Minister of Municipal Affairs to provide financial assistance to phase in intermunicipal cost shifts that will result from the reassessment.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Baetz: Just before I moved the adjournment of the debate, I indicated that there has been a very remarkable and dramatic increase in the number of mothers working in the labour force who have very young children. This development has been with us for some years. There is no sign of it ending, and therefore it seems to me that we have to do much more to provide adequate day care services for children of working parents.

Today during question period we heard my colleague the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) talk about the recommendations coming out of his excellent task force on day care, suggesting ways and means whereby day care space could be increased. In addition to those excellent recommendations, however, I am proposing that we do considerably more in

another field that would assist in caring for very young children whose parents are both employed in the labour force.

Even if we were to expand very substantially the number of organized day care spaces, it would not provide an answer to those young parents who are in the labour force but who wish to care for their own children, especially in their own homes, during the first critical bonding years. Therefore, we need to introduce measures that will provide some reasonable guarantee for parents—in reality, mainly mothers who are employees—that having and caring for very young children will not cost them their jobs and, conversely, that keeping their jobs does not require them to abandon the essential family obligations during the early years of their children's lives.

I believe it would be sound social policy to take steps so that one of the employed parents will be (1) guaranteed the right to be absent from work for child-caring up to a maximum period of time, including a guarantee that the employer will take the parent back in the same or a comparable job after the authorized parental leave has expired and (2) provided access to sufficient income replacement during this leave so that employees are realistically able to take advantage of the leave of absence.

The present maximum maternity leave of 17 weeks, of which 15 weeks' maternity cash benefits are paid under unemployment insurance, is not long enough to cover the crucial bonding period between parents and their infant children. It should be extended initially to at least 26 weeks and preferably to one year. The issue of expanding considerably, even if by stages, maternity or parental leave from the work force for young mothers, and in some cases fathers, essentially rests with the province. As we all know, this is because more than 80 per cent of employees in Canada are covered by provincial rather than federal labour legislation.

This proposal of expanded and extended maternity leave, along with increased maternity or parental cash benefits, is not a pie-in-the-sky proposal. In many European countries, maternity leaves range all the way from six to 47 weeks, with benefits replacing up to 80 or 100 per cent of income. In some instances, maternity leave without financial benefits is available for up to two and a half years, during which time the young mothers collect their statutory benefits.

Here in Canada, the major source of parental cash benefit funding should remain within unemployment insurance, where the maternity

benefits program now is located. Enrichment of maternity parental benefits would have to be regarded as separate and distinct from other employment insurance benefits and would probably have to be financed through earmarked contributions to the fund from employers and the government. In whatever way the added maternity cash benefits would be administered, there is no doubt that if we are to expand maternity or parental leave, some additional cash benefits will have to flow or many young parents would not or could not avail themselves of the additional leave.

These are a number of ways in which maternity leave could be expanded and maternity cash benefits enriched. I hope this government will show some leadership in talking to the federal government, because obviously it would have to be involved in making these proposals possible.

In concluding my reply to the speech from the throne on what I call the broad social policy field, I would like to say one or two words about the arts. Unfortunately, the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) has just left.

Regarding the social policies that emanated from the throne speech, and social policies obviously include the arts, I was astounded that virtually nothing was said about the arts. There was an obviously last-minute, afterthought comment that the arts are important and have to be financed, but have to be retained at an arm's-length distance from government. That was it, pure and simple.

I wonder what the minister or her good deputy minister, David Silcox, did to deserve that kind of back-of-the-hand treatment. Surely the arts and culture play a central and vital role in enriching our society. The arts are not a frill. They are not the icing on the cake, a little extra if there happens to be some extra time and money. Rather, the arts are central to our lives, as important to our wellbeing as the air we breathe and the food we eat.

3:40 p.m.

We need only think what remains in societies that have long since disappeared; it is the work of their artists, their poets, their composers and their architects. For example, how many names of dukes and princes who lived during Shakespeare's time are a household word today? How many politicians who worked and ruled during the lives of Bach, Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven do we remember? One could go on. Nobody remembers and no one really cares about the accomplishments of the Dutch leaders of com-

merce. It is the artistic skills of the Dutch masters group of painters who have immortalized the Dutch tycoons of commerce.

These are simply a few illustrations to indicate that, when all else disappears in a society that has gone down, it is the work of the artist that remains and is immortalized. The case for the arts in our society could be made in volumes. Suffice it to say that they are central and deserve more than the kind of afterthought they received in this throne speech.

The present government has inherited a rich legacy in the arts in this province, all the way from our large, well-known cultural institutes such as the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canadian Opera Company, the Toronto Symphony and the National Ballet to a wide array of museums across the province, local art galleries and local symphony orchestras.

Indeed, thanks to a very caring government during the past many years, the arts are flourishing in this province, and it seems to me they deserve more attention than simply a back-of-the-hand, afterthought mention in the throne speech. Let us hope, frankly, that the arm's-length distance between the government and the arts as expressed in this throne speech does not mean the distance is so great that the arts are out of the sight, the thought and the mind of government.

These are some of the gaps, omissions and weaknesses in the social policies in this throne speech. One could talk about more of them at great length, but the point has been made. This is not a serious social document. Rather, it is a pretty exercise of blowing bubbles in the air. Sooner or later, I am sure the general public will also recognize the throne speech for what it was: an exercise in blowing pretty bubbles.

Mr. Callahan: I was quite pleased when the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz) started out, because it appeared as though he had read the throne speech and understood it. Unlike him, when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) started his, it was totally negative. The member for Ottawa West did indicate he had at least read and understood it, and he tried to put forward some suggestions.

I have to take issue with one or two of them. The first one was the question of whether it is important to launch a thorough review of the Ontario social assistance programs. During the days of the formulation of those assistance programs by the previous Conservative government, we did not have such things as bag ladies

on the streets of Toronto. We did not have several other instances of modern-day needs that have to be addressed. The Conservatives created a book and a hierarchy such that, as I said yesterday, one needed a master's degree to find out where to go to obtain the assistance.

With reference to the health care system, the cost of providing health services was allowed to escalate by his government without any possible reaffirmation or reconsideration of modern approaches to it. This throne speech indicates that aggressive, modern and visionary approaches are going to be taken to the delivery of health care other than through the traditional hospital setting. That is a very healthy attitude, recognizing the projections in the throne speech that, if we continue to allow it to grow, as the member's government did, we will find that the 31 per cent of the budget it now occupies will perhaps have doubled by the year 2001.

Mr. Breagh: The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) is over here provoking the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), and that is a very volatile situation. I would not want to be caught in the radiation splash that might come from that.

Mr. Martel: I have a hockey stick.

Mr. Breagh: I am sure the member has.

I have listened to the throne speech itself and to other members' comments on the throne speech. One of the things that always strikes me about it is the unreal air of expectations. The throne speech—I have seen it read 11 times now—is a social occasion. It is a day when the Lieutenant Governor—and we have a fine new Lieutenant Governor—comes up the street in a landau. Everybody gets out the Brasso and polishes buttons, the bands play and all the caucuses have parties; but that is what it is.

I have not yet heard a throne speech that was a hard and fast political program. None of them has been like that. All the ones I have heard have been of the same variety. There are no details in it, there is a lot of vagary about it, and there are a lot of faint hopes and wild promises; but it is not meant to be and it never has been an occasion when a government really lays out in a hard, firm way exactly what it intends to do. It is meant to be a social occasion.

I accept it for what it is, because it gives me, as an opposition member, a chance to say what I want to say. There are no longer a lot of occasions when the rules of this House provide an opportunity for an ordinary member to get up and talk about the things that are important to him

or her in a riding that does not dominate provincial politics.

This is a throne speech that obviously was put together by a world-class knowledge worker, probably done at his or her little personal computer at home late at night. It is full of the jargon of our age. It is full of all the current and trendy things. It is a very yuppie type of throne speech. It is perhaps one that is precisely what one would expect from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his new government.

It reflects some concerns we all have. It poses some general premonitions on which this government is going to operate from here on in, and I believe they are things that should not be ignored. It is true that there is something called, to use the catch-phrase, world-class competition out there now. We know that. We know the cars that are made in Oshawa are now sold on a world market and they have to compete with vehicles that are made in Japan, in Germany and all over the world. They sell in that market, and more and more, the people who produce products in those countries sell in this market.

Not long ago in North America, if one suggested for a moment that import cars would take up more than 20 per cent of the total marketplace, people would say: "That is ridiculous. No one will buy those small vehicles. They do not want that type of car." Not too long ago, the imports were seen as a nuisance in the marketplace, not as having a major impact.

I went to a local Chevy dealership in Oshawa a little while ago and tried to find a full-sized vehicle. I could not find a full-sized Chevrolet; they did not have one in stock. There were all kinds of vehicles that had been down-sized, that looked like the imports, that were the General Motors version of the smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicle, but there were no full-sized cars there. That is a remarkable change in the auto industry itself.

Let me touch on a couple of old thoughts, because I would hate to leave them this late in my career.

Every year I have been here, I have made the plea that we ought to televise the proceedings of this House. I am taken aback somewhat that for the first time I cannot make that plea. This process is now being televised. There are members here who will be inconvenienced by this. I know that already. There are people who are very concerned about what they look like on television. There are some who are very concerned about what the House in general looks like on TV. I have been told the sound system is

inadequate. I knew all these things, but I am pleased to hear them again.

It is true that the place is different from most forums. It is a little more rowdy in spots. I do not think it will change very much. In the first few days of the televising of the proceedings here I noticed the place was a little bit quiet. However, I also notice that as each day goes by, the politeness has dropped and the rowdiness has returned. I believe we will fall into the pattern that every other legislature has seen, that when the proceedings are televised, for the first few days the members are not quite sure what to do. In that era of uncertainty, they often revert to being almost polite.

3:50 p.m.

I want the people of Ontario to have a chance to see how this House functions. For example, when what was then called the standing committee on procedural affairs wrote its report, the guidelines essentially said, "We would like to show the people of Ontario their parliament at work and to show it as accurately and honestly, warts and all, as we possibly can." Without question, that will embarrass some members. Perhaps those members should be embarrassed. Some people will say it costs too much. They will be the people who spent twice that amount of money for a party on the front lawn for one night. I know who they are, and I am waiting for them to make those arguments.

I believe the people have a right to know. I believe they have a right to see what their Legislature is like day by day. I think they have a right to see what their local member does day by day. More important, I hope it will change the nature of politics in Ontario, because now they will be able to assess political leaders and political parties on more than just an advertising campaign. They will see them at work in their work place every day of their political lives.

Not everybody is going to turn off *The Young and the Restless* to watch the old and the restless. We know that already. They will watch from time to time to keep an eye on us. It is much the same as putting one's child out to play in the backyard: Every once in a while one takes a look out the window and sees what is going on out there. I suspect most of the people in Ontario will take much the same attitude towards televising these proceedings. They will check it out every once in a while to see what is going on, to see how the new Premier is performing, to see how the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) is settling into his role, to see what the third party is up to these days.

To me, that is a significant improvement in their ability to see and understand how the political process works. It provides access to people all over Ontario. When the finalized procedure is put together, we will probably have done about as much as one can do to see that people in every part of the province have an equal opportunity to have access to the legislative process. That is difficult. That is not easy in this part of the world, but it can be done and we intend to try to do that.

Let me say too that I would welcome, the comments and suggestions that members on all sides have formulated over a reasonable period of time as well as comments they have picked up from the people back home.

One of the things that already strikes me about televising the proceedings is that when I watch it with my son or my wife at home I have to spend a little bit of time explaining what is happening. I do not know whether we need to bring in Howard Cosell for a week or so, but there are things about the rules of the House, and the way we proceed with things here, that are not readily understandable to most human beings. That is something we can forgive them for, but perhaps in proceeding with televising these things we will have to find ways and means of explaining what is going on.

This is not the most glorious example to pick, but for a long time it irked me in watching the federal Parliament that when a member was named, one never found out who the member was and one never saw the member. All one got to see was the Speaker calling for order and informally naming a member. Unless one is a member of Parliament, one does not know what is going on.

At least I have this much to claim for our small victories here. The other day a member was named, and we found out who the member was and we actually saw the process at work. If I may, I would like to say that is an example of what we are trying to do. We are trying to explain the process, to let people see the process in terms they can understand. That is important.

In the long run, I believe there is a larger goal here, and an important one; that is, that people will have access to the parliamentary process.

I used to get up on these occasions and give my little tirade about rule changes. Being a fan of the parliamentary process and one who is involved in procedural matters pretty regularly, I believe the parliamentary process is the best in the world from the point of view of a system that works and has traditions to lean on. It also should have a lot

of flexibility, because this parliament is a lot different from the ancient Parliaments in Britain.

We have changed the rules substantially here. We have not done all that I would have wanted to do. We have not done all from the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions, that is for sure, but we have made some major changes.

From a few weeks of operation, I would like to make a couple of comments on that. We have given members an opportunity to make little statements at the beginning of the day, and I believe that is a very worthwhile thing to do. I do not hear the frivolous points of order any more. The members have their vehicle whereby they can say something that is important to them and their constituencies. There is a clear vehicle there.

The response to ministers' statements is a good give and take period. It will not be consistently wonderful stuff to watch, but there is some fairness in that. I believe in the question period changes that have happened. More ordinary members are getting a chance to ask a question. That is as it should be.

At the end of that part of our legislative day, many more people—probably two or three times the number as did previously—have had a chance to say their piece, to ask their question and to respond to a statement. That is a good parliament at work. It allows members on all sides to have a regular opportunity to participate, which is incredibly important for the process. It means the domination of the process by the party leaders will diminish somewhat and, on balance, will mean more give and take. The heart and soul of any parliamentary system is that there is give and take. The government gets a chance to take some initiatives and opposition members get an opportunity to respond to them. Those changes are healthy. They have resulted in some changes already and more changes are on the way.

I want to put in a commercial for two things that have not happened. We will review these at the end of the year, and I hope we will have another opportunity to go at them again. The parliamentary calendar concept—that is, we all know when the spring session starts and when it ends and we all know when the fall session starts and when it ends—is just common sense. For the life of me, I cannot understand why that was not accepted. It seems to be such a straightforward concept, however we work out the mechanics of it. We are not finished with that argument by a long shot. We will come back to it, and one of these days we will, like everybody else who has a

job somewhere, know when the job is going to start and when it is going to finish.

The other things that did not happen—and perhaps this is understandable—are some recommendations we made about dealing with the estimates. We said we should set up a new committee and refer all the estimates to that committee. We said we should give that committee the resources to go after the spending of the government, while the money is being spent, before it is spent and after it is spent. We set up the committee, but the rest of us are still left with all these wonderful estimates to go through.

For people who do not know what a parliament is all about or what estimates are, they are supposed to be an opportunity for opposition and government members to query the spending practices and policies of a government. In reality, they turn out to be long bull sessions, to be polite about it. They are not particularly productive, but—and I want to put this on the record too—they are as expensive as all get out. That point is sometimes forgotten. When the minister walks into the room with three briefing books, somebody has been paid to put the briefing books together. When the ministerial staff arrives, and in some estimates the people arrive in waves, that costs us money. It costs us money to bring in deputy ministers to sit around the table and to fill the room with all those people who are monitoring the proceedings for some reason.

It is an expensive and counterproductive process. More important, I believe there is a better way to do it, and we suggested that in the report. I know it is traditional to have estimates done in committee. I know there are members who want the right to go in and flail away for a while, but I suggest once again it is not a particularly productive exercise and there is a better way to do it. We outlined in our report some of the ways we might do that. I hope that when we review the procedures again at the end of the fall session, we will have yet another run at that.

It is high time this province had a workable way to scrutinize the spending of our government. The truth is, right now we do not. Every municipality in Ontario has better accountability on the part of the local town council than we have here. Every member of a town council or a school board in Ontario has better access to information and more opportunities to question spending and to make an impact on a budget than any member in this House. That is ridiculous. That is truly crazy.

A school board must put together its budget in public, and the members of the board have the opportunity to analyse, ask questions and change things. We recognize that for municipalities, but we do not for senior levels of government. In this day and age, with the amount of money being spent by the province, that is a sin that ought to be corrected.

Let me make a couple of comments about what is called the accord. Members and a lot of other people will know that at the end of the last election my party and the Liberal Party realized there was a minority situation for, I think, the third time in four elections and decided we had better find some ways and means of establishing a government with some stability for a while. We put together a rather different kind of agreement on how to proceed from there.

4 p.m.

It is difficult for me to assess how the population as a whole views this. Many of them have liberties which members of the Legislature do not have. People I talk to at home say, "Never associate yourselves with either the Liberals or the Conservatives." I try to explain to them that they can do that. That is a privilege that is open to them, but it is not open to me. As a member of the Legislature, I am sent here to vote on bills, for example. I have to vote with one side or the other. I cannot take a walk all the time.

We had to make a decision which was unique to us to fulfil our responsibilities, and we did. I am uneasy about it because nobody has ever done this before. We are not formally a part of the cabinet and we do not have that kind of input into it. The main thing that hits me again and again is that it is different, it is unusual and there are not many precedents for it, but I would do it again in a minute. I believe whatever political party one belongs to, if it holds power for 42 years, it is in trouble and so are the people it governs. That really works against the democratic process.

If a government gets a huge majority, it causes itself problems. We are seeing that now at the national level. No one has to attack Brian Mulroney. He is attacking himself every other day. Some minister of the crown is in hot water again. Nobody has pushed him into a corner; he fell through the floor all by himself. The parliamentary process works well when there is a balance and give and take, when there is a government trying to do something and an opposition saying: "Wait a minute. There is a better way," or, "Do not do that. Try this." Democracy is served better when there is a balance on all sides, when there are checks and

balances and when a government does not have the opportunity to ram something through all by itself.

I do not regret that for a minute. It causes a little unease in spots because we are walking unfamiliar territory, but I believe it has been good even for the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario. It gives them a chance to regroup and rethink without having to be the government every day. I am sure this is not exactly a pleasure and they would much rather be the government, but in the long run, it will do them some good. I have met the odd Tory who is prepared to admit to that.

Let me move to what I see this new government being up to. For starters, it is doing okay. There is not good news or bad news all the time, but it is doing all right. I have said that about Tory governments, so I do not feel bad saying it about Liberal governments. What has happened is pretty obvious. The government came in with a tremendous legislative program that was generated by the accord. There is no question about that. That stuff was all put on the table. It had to take those initiatives and it has begun to do those things.

If we add up what has been truly accomplished, we have to admit it is not a great deal as yet. There is a lot of work that must be done, but the initiatives have been taken. That is important. People I talk to are refreshed by that. They are happy that somebody is doing something.

As a member of the Legislature, I sat here during the previous four years and looked at all kinds of inconsequential bills. During that time, this Legislature did not do a great deal, at least in legislative terms. Now, if anything, we are overworked. Our committees are backed up. We are trying to get the legislation through. Our members are tired. They have been in session since the election. There was no break for members of our caucus when we adjourned just after Christmas, because we had to come back in here and work on that legislation. That is not an argument for higher pay. We are doing what we are supposed to be doing. We are here, sitting as a parliament, dealing with legislation. That is what we are paid to do. We should not complain when we are asked to do that.

If it does anything, the throne speech gives a fairly clear indication that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his new government have seen themselves to be aligned on the left. They wanted to take a step or two to the right and they did that. That is why the language of the throne speech is very much the language of the chamber of

commerce. There is a lot of jargon and jingle in there. That is fine by me. I do not object to that.

The first objection I want to put on the record is an unfortunate one. Just after we got back to work, the government brought in back-to-work legislation for the Wheel-Trans drivers. I regret that because it is sad. The Premier said that he does not care about the numbers, but I put it to him that if there were 80,000 instead of 80 Wheel-Trans drivers, nobody would have tried to ram a bill through this House in one day. I believe that to be true.

One of the reasons there are some delicate negotiations around Bill 94 is because there are a lot of people affected by it. The Wheel-Trans drivers are a small group of people. The first mistake I have seen the new Premier make was to pick on a group that small when he could have exercised several other options that would have resolved the labour dispute. It was quite wrong.

I think I understand why he did it. He wanted a signal that this was not a government that is all on the side of labour or on the left. This is a government that can walk on the right-hand side of the street too. Back-to-work legislation is a good way to get that message out, and he did, but surely among all the young yuppies that work around the Premier's office, somebody should have told him he cannot put a bill through the House in one day. He cannot pass legislation that nobody has ever seen. He has to have it printed, put on the order paper, order the debates and all that. Somebody made a little mistake there, a stupid mistake, I believe. There was no need for that at all, and this House would have been quite wrong to have allowed that kind of legislation to go through in one day.

That is the first mistake that has been made. The second one may turn out to be a mistake. I am sure in the Premier's office they do not view it this way at all.

If one watched the news, the history being made about the legislation to ban extra billing, one would have asked: "What is going on here? Did the government not clearly announce its intention to ban extra billing?" Yes, it did. "Does the Premier not get up in the House every day and say that is still what it is going to do?" Yes, he does. "Then why in the world would the government hold public hearings on the bill, take it through committee and then put it on the back burner?" There is no good explanation for that unless one is into modern political theory. There is a theory of politics today that it is very important to do something called issue management.

The best example I can think of was when Bill Davis wanted to build a domed stadium in downtown Toronto. I am sure he knew that was a rather preposterous thought and that there would be municipalities around here that would object to Toronto once again getting a whole lot of money to build a domed stadium, so Bill said, "Let me try this on for size."

Then he said, "I am not too sure about that Toronto site; maybe we had better set up a quasi-royal commission here and invite all these municipalities around us to make applications," which he did. I attended a couple of those on behalf of some people in Durham who wanted to put one in Oshawa or Whitby or Ajax or wherever. I am in favour of that because it would have saved me a couple of hours of driving to the stadium.

In the process, what happened was that all those municipalities that might initially have said, "We are not against the domed stadium, but do not build it in Toronto," had now made submissions, saying, "The domed stadium is a great idea; build it in my backyard." They were all on side. By the time Bill Davis got through with the domed stadium idea, it went from about 20 per cent to about 70 per cent of the population that thought it was a good idea.

That is issue management. Take something one wants to do and do not rush with it. Play with it; deak here; give it a couple of steps over there and a couple of head fakes; get a couple more people on side. I believe that is what the Premier is trying to do with the ban on extra billing, and in the process the doctors are playing right into his hand. What he wants he almost got yesterday—almost.

That was a pretty genteel demonstration out front. Everybody was well dressed and well behaved. They ate ice-cream cones. They did not throw beer bottles on the lawn. They picked up after themselves. I noticed that whoever organized the demonstration was right on the ball. They anticipated they were not going to draw 15,000 people, so they moved the stage about halfway down the field and the whole front lawn was pretty much covered with people who would nearly have occupied that little space at the front of the building. It looked good; it was well produced; the thing went off well. I congratulate them on that.

What the Premier was looking for was an angry doctor. He wants that one picture, and I am convinced he will get it before he is through. The Premier is in here every day looking calm, relaxed and reasonable but firm. What he is

fishing for is the angry doctor. As in every other dispute I have ever seen, when there is a demonstration out front, the photographers are looking for the one worker who is mad and who says or does something untoward. That is the picture that will be on the front page.

4:10 p.m.

That is what the Premier is angling for; he wants that angry doctor. When the doctor gets really angry and the picture appears, right beside it on the front page, there will be a picture of the calm, reasonable Premier saying: "My goodness, I will have to do something about this. I did not want to. I waited; I negotiated; I talked; I delayed. I gave you every opportunity in the world to be reasonable, but you are being unreasonable."

That is issue management too. That is a government that has determined what it wants to do, is a little unsure of what should happen here and is milking that for everything it is worth. In the end, it has worked. Let us admit that. Every day since the Premier introduced Bill 94, he has said he is against extra billing and it has been news every day since he introduced it. By all rights, it should have been off the front pages long ago. It should be done with.

I believe the government has chosen to manage this issue a little bit, to keep the Premier in the spotlight, to keep him calm and reasonable and to have him wait for the angry doctor to appear. He or she probably will. The dénouement will come when the Premier says: "I have been so reasonable, so calm and so righteous about all this and you are being so unreal, unreasonable and angry that you are forcing me to pass the bill I introduced six months ago."

Mr. Wildman: Does the member really think he is that cynical?

Mr. Breagh: I do.

That is liable to backfire. I want to caution the Premier. I know his advisers are telling him the issue needs to be managed a little bit more and he has to massage that around a little bit, but a lot of people are getting hurt in the process, and that is about to surface. We are now beginning to understand that while the Premier waits and manages this issue a bit more, there are more and more patients paying extra amounts of money. Many of them cannot afford it. I know people in my constituency who have put off operations for themselves or their children because they cannot afford the money for them. They are waiting until extra billing is banned so they or their children can get these operations. The people I talked to are not complaining about \$10 or \$20. These are

people who have been referred out of my hospital's catchment area to the downtown Toronto high-technology hospitals. We are not talking peanuts here, fans. It is at least \$1,000 and in some cases \$2,000 or \$3,000. That is a lot of money.

I believe that is wrong. If the Premier manages that issue much longer, I believe we will have a real problem on our hands. I caution him not to play with that too much longer.

Let me touch on some other things that were mentioned in the throne speech. There is a lot of jargon about high technology, whatever that is, and all its ramifications. We are beginning to understand it is very fashionable to talk about the hardware side of it—all the machines we are going to build, all the changes that will happen in the production place. I want to generate some talk about the other side of it, the human beings who have to deal with high technology. I do not believe we are getting ready for that and we have to. We are not ready to deal with the technology we have.

People who work in offices tell me: "It is tough because there is no old-fashioned typewriter any more. It has been replaced by a computer or a word processor and I do not know how to run one of those things. As fast as I learn how to operate the new equipment, there is more new equipment in the office." The office is changing.

When we talk about workers, many of us think of some male who gets up early in the morning, sticks a lunch pail under his arm and goes off to an industrial work place. That work place is changing dramatically as well. The most significant change for many people is that the work place is no longer there. That is sad, but it is a reality that the people in my community and I live with. We have lost the bulk of our secondary manufacturing industry. The things that are happening now in the northern part of the province, such as in Sault Ste. Marie, happened in my area three, four or five years ago. It is tough.

I would like to invite all the people who talk about new technology, changes in the work place, increased production facilities and the hardware side of it to come to Oshawa, sit at some kitchen table and listen to people who have had their lives destroyed because the plant closed down. It was the plant they hated all their lives, where they complained to no end about what a lousy place it was to be. Yet it is there no more, and they are sad about that. They had a healthy, human investment in that work place and it was torn away from them, as was their financial

security. Their hopes and dreams about a house, their kids' education and providing for their families are wrecked by an economic decision.

We have not come to grips with that. We have talked about notification of plant shutdowns and some other very simple, straightforward ideas that have to be done, but we have not learned a great deal about how to deal with the industrial worker who is ripped apart by an economic decision, which I am sure makes good sense in Florida, Philadelphia or wherever the head office is. That continues to be the unfortunate trend in some parts of our province—fortunately not in all parts. That is something we have to learn a great deal about.

We have to begin to come to grips with larger issues. In this part of the world, as in all parts, we have operated for a few centuries with some kind of industrial pollution under way. There is a simple notion that all one does with industrial pollution is disperse it, get it up in the air, dump it in the lake, truck it somewhere, do something but just get it away from oneself. That was seen to be a reasonable solution to all of this muck and mire one did not want to keep around.

For centuries we have dumped every imaginable chemical in that lake at the foot of the street. We have dumped them in the streams, lakes and rivers, anywhere we could. We have dumped them on farm land and pumped them out of smokestacks. We are just beginning to have some idea of how ludicrously expensive that was in dollar terms, people's lives and the quality of life. We are beginning to do some analysis of something that would have been unthinkable in this part of the world not too long ago.

People are asking whether the water they drink is safe. So far, it is only a question. Frankly, we do not really have the technology to determine whether it is safe. We are not sure of the standards or how to measure. We do not monitor all that much. The assumption that the water in this area of the world is relatively safe to drink is no longer a safe and reasonable one. It was not very long ago when someone in Ontario could say, "That is never going to be a problem here. We have so much clean, safe drinking water that it will never be a problem here." We are now beginning to understand it is. We do not quite have the tools to deal with it yet, but we are thinking about it.

Places such as Toronto are now asking, "If we cannot drink the water from Lake Ontario, how do the people in this city get water? What would one have to do to provide them with water?" The first suggestion that has been talked about is

building a pipeline to get the water from Georgian Bay down to Toronto. The reason Toronto is here is it was next to a source of water, among other things. Now we are talking about piping water back and forth across the province.

However farfetched that kind of solution may seem to us now, I hope it is not seen in 20 years as the only solution to an ever-growing problem. It may be. More and more people are beginning to understand the problem. Not very long ago one could probably say that all of this environmental stuff is—as I heard today—a yuppie issue and only environmental freaks are into that talk about air, water, earth and all of that. The flower children were interested in this, but nobody else was.

In my office we hand out a whole lot of those guides about what kinds of fish are safe to eat. The people who ask for them are not yuppies by a long shot. They are people who simply like to enjoy themselves by fishing. They are now aware that one cannot just eat a catch of fish. One should now know what is likely to be in that fish, how many one can eat, when and how many times a year. The awareness level is a little higher than some of us might have anticipated. People know and are taking precautions. They understand the air is not as clean as it ought to be and the water we drink is not as clear as it used to be or should be and produces effects on fish and wildlife that are dangerous to people.

4:20 p.m.

That is a sad commentary on the world in which we live, but I believe it is true. More and more people are going to demand that governments stop playing around with the environment. Last fall they applauded when a major polluter was nailed with a reasonably substantial fine for the first time in the history of this province. They were not yelling because they thought the polluter should be penalized. I believe they were applauding because they thought it was a signal that this government might actually be serious about its environmental laws and that would surely be a change. Instead of the polluter getting a piece of paper saying, "Please do not do this any more or we might actually get tough and put an order on you," he would be charged, just as I would be charged for speeding on a highway. People are arguing about simple fairness.

If we write a speeding law for the whole population that says, "You all have to conform to this law," and if we put cops on the road with radar guns to make people conform to that law, they do not like it but they accept it. All they want is for the government to apply the environmental laws with the same vigour. It is as simple as that.

That is not unfair. However much a company might yell and scream that it cannot afford it, there should be no exemption. It should not be outside the law. It should comply with the laws that exist as every other citizen does. That would be a substantial change.

Although this is harder, people are getting a little more aware of health and safety in the work place. Mine is a very industrialized riding and there is a lot of concern about it. We have a piece to go on this; I am the first to admit it. In the work place, workers themselves now are at a level where they are aware that there are health and safety laws that should be obeyed. They are aware that they have consequences for their personal lifestyle and health. It is at the point where it is great stuff until you order them to wear steel-toed work boots and they do not want to wear them. It is at that level; we are getting there.

In this day and age, I would have thought that we would have acknowledged that health and safety laws, such as they are in Ontario, are valid and have to be obeyed by everyone—workers, owners of companies and the provincial government—and that we should make them an efficient and workable system of controlling health and safety in the work place. Some of us are trying.

It is difficult. I remember talking to industrial workers who tested chemicals in a vat by sticking their finger in it and licking it with their tongue. That is how they would test for chemicals. To me, that was bizarre to say the least. To them, that was the way they always tested whether there was a right mix of chemicals in the vat. You tested it with your tongue just as your wife would test cooking in the kitchen. In the work place, that is what the man would do. In part, it was stupid, macho stuff; in part, it was a lack of knowledge of what chemicals were in the vat; in part, it was "That is the way I learned to do this job." It is as simple as that.

Miss Stephenson: That was a slightly sexist remark. Surely you cook too.

Mr. Breagh: I do. I cook chili in my kitchen every day. I always taste it. In the kitchen, it is not too bad. In the work place, it is a particularly dangerous thing to do.

This is an issue that is going to be of more and more concern as we learn more and more about the effects of various chemicals in the work place. It is the tip of the iceberg so far. We have begun to write the laws. We have begun to accumulate the knowledge. We do not know all that is happening in anybody's work place. We do not know the long-term effects of a number of

chemicals in work situations. That will continue to be a substantial problem.

Let me say a little about the economy. I have some high hopes. In my area, General Motors just announced what may turn out to be a \$3-billion investment in its production facilities in Oshawa. For those who like this, it is going to be world-class stuff.

Mr. Wildman: World-class? Where have we heard that?

Mr. Breagh: World-class; it is right out of the throne speech.

There is hope in all this. Along with all this new technology and all the changes in the work place is coming a change in the philosophy of work, in how you do your job. By about mid-1987, there will not be an assembly line at the Oshawa production facility. That is a phenomenal change in the structure of the work place.

Talking to workers, it is odd, but the phenomenon I discussed a bit earlier is still there. They hate the assembly line; they cannot stand it. If you ask an assembly line worker, "What is it you cannot stand about your job?" he will say it is the line, the killing line. A guy in Oshawa wrote a very good book about that, and the members ought to read it. It is the concept that says: "My life as a worker in a plant is totally subordinated to a production line. I can fall dead at the work place and no one will care as long as I do not fall across the assembly line and stop the line." That is what is really bad, that General Motors will run its plants in any country in the world, with a revolution in full swing, as long as the revolution does not stop the assembly lines.

It is a symbol for workers, one they love and hate. They love it because in a very real sense, through union contracts that have been toughly negotiated over the years, the assembly line has brought them an economic status their fathers and grandfathers never could obtain. They hate it because it is a grinding work place; it really does grind them. With this new investment will come work stations, teams, responsibility for production, assessment of performance and assessment of auto parts. It will be a whole change in working life for these people.

I am gratified because I have always been an advocate of what used to be called democracy in the work place, where workers would have some control over their lives in the work place, and they could say some things to management and there would be changes. It has perhaps been made popular because the Japanese do a lot of it. They talk about the quality of the work place and

they talk a great deal about production ideas. They design their plants with suggestions from the workers. To some degree, the workers feel that they have, not control over but an influence on the work place. When they tell somebody in production management how he can make an improvement, he actually does it. That is not a rare occurrence; it happens daily.

That is so rare in our production facilities that we have tended to say, "You ought to get an award for it." Somebody gives you a plaque or \$5,000 or \$10,000 or whatever for a suggestion you have submitted. There is a change under way. The change is that management now understands that workers are human beings with good ideas, that no one knows a work place better than the worker who work there every day of his or her life and that the workers have knowledge no one else has.

Management does not have that knowledge. Management people may never have worked in that facility. They may have been in office jobs all their working lives. They may never have known what it is like to listen to the noise on a production line. They may never have known that kind of stress. They would know another kind, but not that kind. They would know a great many things, but they would not know what it is like to use one's hands to build a Chevrolet. The workers know that.

It will not be an easy transition. In the end, I believe it will be a good transition, a process that will be better than what we have now, one that will be a little saner and a little more productive. From General Motors' point of view, bless its soul—I do not get to agree with management at General Motors a whole lot, but I do about this—it is very straightforward: This is not an act of kindness on the part of General Motors, but is an act of productivity. They want to increase profit and they want to build better automobiles.

From their point of view, they are arriving at the same place by a very different route. I come at the whole concept of democracy in the work place from a human being's point of view. They come at it from a ledger's point of view. If it makes better economic sense to change the work place, they will change it. To their credit, that is exactly what they are doing. In their announcements, they have indicated clearly that they understand this will not be simple. It is a dramatic change in the work place but one they believe is for the better, for General Motors as well as for the workers. That is why they are there.

Let me put in another little commercial. This is the second occasion on which I am agreeing with

General Motors, in this case with its president. I went to a local businessmen's group where he gave a speech in which he came as close as I have ever seen the president of General Motors come to criticizing government policy. Management for some reason does not do that.

In essence, he said: "We are fed up. We are in the private sector, investing billions of dollars in Canada's economy. We do not want much for that, but we want some fairness." He said it was not fair to come to General Motors and say, "Invest your corporate entity here in Oshawa, Ste. Thérèse, St. Catharines and Windsor; spend your money privately;" and then to invite in its competition from offshore, most notably the Japanese, saying, "We want you here"—we do, for a lot of reasons; and offering cash incentives to underwrite their loans, to provide them with land and to provide them with training facilities.

4:30 p.m.

The government is subsidizing the offshore producers. I thought he had a fair argument. He said, "Bring us all in." He does not welcome competition. General Motors is not that stupid, but it knows competition is inevitable. He was arguing for simple fairness. That is a strong argument. He simply said, "If you expect us to invest this kind of money"—\$2 billion twice in two years, in one production facility—"surely it is fair to ask our competitors to come in here on exactly the same basis." I believe him. He is right; there is some fairness in that.

I know this is not a terribly popular thing to say in many parts of Ontario where there are new offshore producers either here or on their way. However, it is something we should write into the back of our minds. When we bring offshore production facilities into Canada, and in fairness, I believe that should be done, if they are going to compete in this market, they should have to build those products here. I am also aware that is not a simple notion.

When I went out to buy a microwave oven, I could not find anything that looked even vaguely Canadian, but I found a Hitachi that had a little red maple leaf on it. I guess in some wonderful federal bureaucrat's mind, it qualifies as being made in Canada; so they put a little red maple leaf on the sales sticker. That is fine. I suppose we will have to do things such as that.

However, I want to reiterate that I thought that was a fair and reasonable request on his part, from a company that has made its fair share of capital investment in this country. It has done well here. It is not doing any of these things out of the goodness of its heart. It produces automobiles

in this country because the people who work in those plants consistently produce a quality product. They are consistently at the top of the General Motors chain of production facilities. General Motors is here because people here do a good job, because they produce a good product and because it makes economic sense to be here.

In terms of developing what goes on around Ontario—and I know this is a little different perspective from the one that some members would put on it—there are economic problems occurring in the northern part of our province. There will be responses to these problems. Based on tradition, somebody, such as the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) in his budget next Tuesday, will announce a make-work program. If I may put in a plea, the Treasurer should do that if he wants; that is fine. However, he should make sure the programs designed are useful.

I have a suggestion. The Treasurer should go to the municipalities, as I know the minister, the deputy ministers and some of my colleagues already have, and ask them: "What needs to be done in this area? Which are the roads you need built? What are the facilities that ought to be put up at this time that would help you through this gap?"

The Treasurer should take their suggestions. He should not sit in Toronto and have his bureaucrats fantasize programs for the north, the east or anywhere else. He should have the common sense to go there and ask people what they need and what would be useful and helpful in that situation. He should take those suggestions and fund them.

In the long run, the government will have to address itself to the long-term problems of several parts of the province. The north is one that is dramatic. Any of us who has had the opportunity to travel through the north is struck by the differences between the north and the south. They are dramatic.

If one goes to a place such as Moosonee, the only thing that can be compared with southern Ontario in the whole town is the liquor store. There is a first-class liquor store in Moosonee. However, they do not have paved roads yet; they are supposed to come in this summer. They do not have jobs for people or the same standards of health care and social services. All these things need to be addressed in a substantial, long-term commitment.

We have to begin to find ways to develop the economy of northern Ontario, and eastern Ontario as well, in ways that are not traditional. It is great stuff; I admit it and I believe it. Tourism

is now and is always going to be important in those parts and all over the province. However, I remind members that tourism is not exactly the world's greatest place for the worker. There are minimum-wage, short-term and seasonal jobs. It is folly for any of us to say he or she can support a family on what he or she would make in a resort. Members should understand that. There are limits to what tourism can do for us. I think we ought to take it right up to those limits, but that cannot be all.

There has to be the generation of thought and the generation of an industrialized base that is diversified around Ontario. It has to extend into the northern part of this province. It has to be much more than taking the resources out of or from the top of the ground and shipping them somewhere else. This is insanity. We should have learned that lesson in this country a long time ago. However, it appears we have not learned it yet.

I am making the plea to learn that lesson. If we are going to use the resources in the northern part of the province or in eastern Ontario, we have an obligation to those people to build a local economy component into that. They cannot be just truckers; they must have full-time jobs in their community, and they have every bit as much right to economic security as people anywhere else in the province.

We are in a position where we can do that. We have unemployment problems that are not general any more. They are not what they should be, but it is not a disaster all over Ontario. The problems are localized. Let us take this opportunity to solve some of those problems, not with a quick fix but with a long-term change. I am making the plea that it has to be incorporated with the wishes, the desires and the real needs—not the perceived needs—of those communities.

Let me make a couple of other points that have to be made. A lot of people have said to me lately, for a variety of reasons—perhaps because it has been in the news a lot—that the price of gasoline is out of line and that the level of taxes on gasoline is absurd. Many of them are people who have just come back from a holiday somewhere else and have found that a gallon of gas in the United States costs about half, and a little less than half in some places, what it costs here. The difference is the tax structure. They are saying this is starting to hurt.

I urge the government to take this little message and to stop taking what I know has always been seen as a traditional almost free ride. It feels it can tax gasoline as much as it wants to

because nobody ever sees the tax on that. One does not see the kid pumping gas at the corner station as a tax collector for the government, even though he or she probably is.

I believe the government will have to take some steps in that regard because many of our people, especially many of our pensioners, are paying an inordinate amount of money for transportation. It would be fine if we had transit systems around Ontario such as there is in downtown Toronto, but we do not. In our community, we have not a bad transit system, but it does not extend the way transportation does in downtown Toronto. That is the case in many of the communities of members from outside Toronto. Some areas have no transportation.

Going back to the Wheel-Trans debate, one of the things that struck me was the hypocrisy of it. That Wheel-Trans service in Toronto was absolutely essential, and we just could not live without it. I have been a participant in providing transportation for the handicapped in my own community, and I have gone through the raffles, the visits to service clubs to get a van and seeking government grants to pay the drivers. In most parts of Ontario I have been to, there is no such service for the handicapped.

When it happens in Toronto, because it is news and because the media are here, that is an essential service all of a sudden. If it is an essential service here, how about in rural Ontario? Can anybody identify for me a rural part of this province that has a transit service for the handicapped? If there is such a thing, it is probably the guy down the road with a station wagon who can pick them up and take them somewhere, but there is no publicly operated, as-of-right transit service for the disabled.

We have opportunity here, but we have a number of problems. Let me get into one other area, and then I want to finish up with a slightly different concept.

There has been a lot of discussion in this House and in the federal House about free trade. The irony of it is that I cannot remember a time in the history of the world when there ever was free trade. In the great old days of the British Empire, there was a rumour that trade was free, but it seems to me in my reading of the history books that the price for that was they always had to conquer somebody. They always had to kill somebody, take over a country, and then they had to go back and fight off the revolution for a few hundred years or they had to bribe somebody. I do not know of a time in the history of the world when there was free trade. There have

always been rules, regulations, negotiations and all of that.

The problem is that many of the people who advocate free trade want to have a theoretical argument. That is fine. If we all want to go off to our universities to organize forums on free trade, we are never going to do it. We can have the academic argument about whether it would be more noble to have free trade and whether we could compete in a world market with free trade. This is fine, up until the point one does it. It would be sad if we had this wonderful, noble argument that free trade is such a wonderful blessing and we will all do so well, and then we found the next day that everything we had was on the bargaining table.

4:40 p.m.

The chairman of the committee that dealt with this matter to fast-track it—I think that is the term—in the American Congress said every fish that swims is on the table now. They mean it. We had an opportunity to talk to American senators and congressional people. They are very serious. If the government wants to jack around with free trade, fine, but everything is up front on the table.

The government may choose to think we can bargain with the United States on an equal footing. In my view, it is crazy. They have a subsidized agricultural process down there that is phenomenal. When they put even a small shift into their regulations, farmers in western Canada, who theoretically should do very well under free trade, are dying on the vine. They are not just losing theoretical arguments; their farms are going bankrupt. We should understand that. This is not an academic argument; it is for real.

The plants that will close under free trade will be in my constituency and in others. The day that free trade is totally opened up in my area, I will be able to go around and almost put a little mark on the buildings of those places that are going to close. Most members here are in the unusual position of having some working knowledge of where the competition will come from, who runs the furniture factories in the US, what they can produce, how much money it will cost them to produce and what will be the impact on the Canadian market.

We know the boat builders, for example, with massive advertising budgets, are looking for any new market. It does not have to be a big one. Any new market is found money for them. They will come in here and wipe out whole sectors. There will not be a recording industry here. Why would there be? There is a brewery somewhere in St.

Louis that can produce enough beer for all of Ontario. Why would they bother with local breweries here?

We should understand that. This is not an academic argument; it is for real. The plants that will close are in my riding and in those of other members, and the people who will be dislocated—that is the pleasant word these days that means being thrown out on the street—will be our constituents. We have to understand that. That kind of argument about free trade is just fine, but it has to be for real and it has to be about facts, not political theory. That is the sad part about the current discussion on free trade.

The part that disturbs me is that people want to fantasize about it. Would it not be wonderful if we could get access to the big American market? That is one part of it. The Americans also get access to this little Canadian market. There is a major problem there.

Let me close with one other theme that I hope to spend some time on. We used to talk a great deal about how much influence any human being can have on his or her life. Some people like to call this empowerment. I do not know what that word means, but I will take a shot at explaining it. What it means is, does one feel that one makes a difference? Does one feel that one has any control at all, in the work place, where one lives or in designing one's future? Does one have any influence on the process, or is one a victim of that process?

I am an advocate that, however small it might be, however inconsequential it might be, I am not going to be a victim any more in my life, I will make a difference. I will pound on the government's door. I will annoy it. I will bother it until it changes just a bit, until I see that I have had an influence. Quite frankly, it works in my personal life.

When people seize the opportunity to make a difference, when they go out to make it happen, it happens. More of our people are going to have to understand this process, where they work, where they play and where they are governed; they must have some sense their vote makes a difference. We went through a round of municipal elections last fall. Most people did not bother to vote. Most of the ones I talked to said: "It does not make any difference. I cannot influence anybody with my vote." We have to try to make them understand that they do.

My world has changed totally in the past 12 months. This time last year, if I had been asked, "Will the Tories form a government?" the answer would have been fairly straightforward. In my

lifetime, they had always been the government. They do not form the government any more. Where one—a little guy from Napanee—has anything to do with a change in government, that is a phenomenal thought. It turns out, I did. Can one change the structure of politics in Ontario? It turns out, I did. I did not do it all. I do not have control. I do not have power. But I did my little bit. I played my role.

More people will have to understand that. For example, those who work in the new General Motors plant in Oshawa will be expected to take control of part of their lives. They will not be expected to come in and be told what to do any more, but to come in to make a car the best way they can, to use their ingenuity, their ideas, and their intelligence to shape and mould their work place.

They are beginning to understand about their environment: the air, water, earth and all that. They just have to make a change in that.

Even a simple, undramatic thing such as garbage is now a major problem. We used to say: "Garbage is a problem? Put it on a truck, take it out to Pickering and dump it there. Pickering is way out in the boondocks. No one knows where it is and no one will see it." Now we have major problems in major landfills in Pickering. We know that. That same problem is occurring all over Ontario. People are saying: "Wait a minute. You cannot just dump this stuff any more. You have to find a better way of treatment. That has an impact on me, on my family and on people I care about, and I will not let you do that. I am going to take a little control, at least to this extent."

One can now find little groups springing up in all parts of the province. I talked to one again this morning which said that something a government was doing was not liked in that neighbourhood. A few years ago, these groups would have just accepted that this is what governments do; governments are mean, cruel and heartless. Now this group is saying, as are a lot of other groups: "Wait a minute. You cannot do that. You are only the government after all. We are the people. We have a right to organize ourselves to respond to an initiative taken by a government."

That has to come out in our society in everything we do; that we can make a difference, that we have an influence and a responsibility to do certain things and that we have an obligation, most of all to ourselves, to take on this role. We do not quite know how to do this yet; we certainly do not know how to do it on a large scale.

I come from a community that has a long tradition of that. People say, "There are not enough houses to go around." In my community, that is an open invitation to build a co-op. They may need a little help from governments, and they will get it. They may need a little help from their local member, and they know they will get it. They demand it. They know that they are not powerless and that they can do these things. If they are having trouble with the banks, they will go to the credit union and run that financial institution. If they are having trouble with grocery store prices, they will open up the biggest food co-op.

They have the sense that they are not victims, that they are not powerless and that they can change things. They have developed the mechanisms, and they have been very strongly influenced by the trade union movement. People learned the skill there that even the lowly workers can take on the biggest corporation in the world if they get together. They can have that power if they accept the tradeoffs that are part of belonging to a union, and they exercise their influence.

That is a theme I will come back to several times in the next little while. It is something our society has to and will understand. It affects every facet of our lives. We are changing, adapting, responding and doing all those things. It all comes back to the fact that each of us, as an ordinary human being, can make a substantial difference in the way we live our lives, in what type of life we live, in economics, in health and safety in the work place, in the environment and in the structure of our society.

That is an important lesson for us to learn. It is new ground for many of us and it involves a lot of challenges, but I believe it is ground we are going to walk, whether we like it or not. We might as well get used to it, get good at it and utilize all the resources we can muster to make it an easier journey. That might have been vaguely hinted at in this speech from the throne.

The government has identified the high-tech stuff. It has found out about the Pacific Rim countries, and we are setting up trade offices over there. That is not to say we will do much business, because a whole new world has to be learned over there.

We are at the beginning of a very exciting era in the history of Canada and of Ontario. We have the resources to come through this and do well. The challenge will be, frankly, not to be stupid in the first instance, and then to utilize all the resources we can because it will be very difficult

as we go through this transition period. I hope we make it.

The speech from the throne does not do a great deal to encourage me about it except to signal little things here and there to indicate that this government is aware that changes are coming, whether anybody likes it or not. The work place, the environment and the lifestyle will change. It does not have very much to do with beer in the corner store, but it has a lot to do with all those other things we talked about earlier. It is quite a challenge for the people of Ontario, and I hope we are up to it.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I always enjoy listening to the member for Oshawa, because his speeches, although he may smile when I say this, are thoughtful speeches and he covers a lot of territory with the experience he has had in the House.

I want to comment on a couple of areas. The first thing he mentioned was that when he and I both sat in the opposition, he was one of the strong proponents of televising the proceedings of this House, and for very good reasons. He has outlined those reasons; I need not repeat them.

It has been good for the process that we have been exposed to the public of this province in the legislative end of things. They know what we do in the constituency; they know we can write them nice letters and things of that nature. But they do not often know what goes on in the Legislature on an ongoing basis. He was one of the members who worked very hard to see that this was changed.

The second matter I was pleased to hear him address was that of the automotive industry. He and I share municipalities that are very dependent upon the automotive industry. Some of the changes that are coming are exceedingly important to us, and the protection we need for that industry is quite obvious.

The third matter, which I appreciate most particularly as a minister, was his comments on the environment. Although we have exchanges in the House, it is an issue that transcends party lines. Everyone now recognizes the importance of cleaning up the environment, doing it on a very thorough basis and bringing about—

Mr. Barlow: I am certainly glad the minister got on Highway 401.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member for Cambridge knows how quickly he gets action when things are on the side of the road.

However, the member for Oshawa identifies this as being an issue that is going to be

exceedingly important to all people. Even in the corporate sector, where one might expect a lot of resistance, we are seeing considerable movement towards the goals that government and this Legislature will be setting.

I thought the speech had an excellent tone. Even though it came from an opposition member, it deserves a compliment.

Mr. Wildman: I want to comment briefly on one aspect of my colleague's speech. I was very happy as a northerner to hear him, as a representative of a riding in southern Ontario, talk so much about the needs of the north.

The reason my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) and I have pushed so hard to have the standing committee on resources development look into the serious economic crisis resulting from the announcement of the Algoma Steel Corp. that it intends to down-size is that we want to give many of the members who represent ridings in southern Ontario the opportunity to understand the crisis that faces a one-industry town in northern Ontario when an announcement of this sort is made.

If all the members had the kind of understanding that my colleague from Oshawa has of the difficulties of one-industry towns in northern Ontario, we would be moving a long way to making an effort as a Legislature and putting pressure on the government to develop an ongoing policy so that we are not simply, as some people have said, trying to put out brush fires, reacting to problems, but actually planning ahead and being able to develop a strategy for economic development in the north, which perhaps would end the chronic boom-bust cycle that we have endured in northern Ontario for so long. I was very happy to hear my colleague from Oshawa make those comments.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I was very happy to be here in the House today to hear the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) speak. I wish to comment briefly on the early part of his speech, in which he referred to the accord and to the sense of apprehension that he and perhaps some of the members of his party even outside the House may have shared at that time. The Liberal members would agree that when we went out and spoke here and there throughout Ontario, many Liberals also shared this sense of apprehension.

However, the member for Oshawa and I, in reviewing the policy matters on which we both ran in the last election, would agree that neither he in his party nor we in our party were required to go outside, beyond or against those very

policies on which we ran. We were able to assure the people that these were shared policies and that there was such a backlog of work to be done within those areas that we would have no trouble working together on neglected fields within the policies we shared.

We have differences. No doubt in the future we will move on to examine those differences and to disagree more often. However, it has been a very productive time for Ontario that we found those common grounds, and the member's party and our party have seen a very productive year. I anticipate another productive year in which the shared territory will be used productively to make up for several years in which so little was done.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I would like to compliment the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) on the very powerful and thoughtful statement he made on a number of points to the Legislature. The tone of his speech was admirable indeed.

There are a couple of points I would like to make. One is with regard to the issue of free trade and the possible losers in all our ridings. I invite the member to take a look at a report that our committee had done by Professor Fred Lazar of York University in which he looked at the Kennedy and Tokyo rounds of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, with a view to looking at an economic theory at that time and who the winners and losers should have been.

Professor Lazar found that so many other things intervened over the long haul that we could not have told at all, on the basis of economic theory, who the winners and losers would be. That comment speaks for the leading around and around that occurs with economists from time to time, while at the same time it means that whether or not we do it, we have to take a leap of faith.

The other thing I want to comment on is that it is a bit unfair to compare General Motors and Toyota. The \$400-million investment that is coming from Toyota is an investment in the future. It is an infant industry; GM is an established industry. I suggest that the comparison not be made.

Mr. Breaugh: I would like to reply to a couple of points. A lot of things still have to happen here. In my committee, we have gone through a long session now on appointments in the public sector. We have that in final draft form. We have tabled that so other people can see it and argue a bit about it before we finalize it. I believe that

whole process has to change. That is still to come.

There is a lot of work to be done. I believe it is important work. For example, I gave a speech to the Municipal Police Authorities last week and I talked to them about appointments. They were somewhat apprehensive about that. However, by the end of the session the members agreed that yes, the appointments process had to change. They understood that. They said it would be a bit of an inconvenience to some of them, but they also understood why.

As long as there is a rational way to present it, as long as there is a reason behind it and some logic, and it is not just "line up at the trough" time, people do understand that appointments in the public sector have to have a public process to them. The appointments have to have a rationale behind them and people do have to have some qualifications.

I believe that would happen even among people who would not be advocates of that. As long as one has geared one's self well, with some logic and some background to it, one can make that something that may not be pleasant for them but that they can accept. I am sure a lot of people would rather get a patronage appointment quietly through the back door, pick up the money and run. However, there are also a lot of people out there who want to do more than that. They want to help people run their communities and our society a bit more, and they accept that a reasonable process should be in place.

Finally, I say to the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) that I am not sure Toyota would take it as much of a compliment if he called it an infant company anywhere in the world.

Mr. Epp: I am pleased to be able to speak during this throne speech debate, and I want to take this opportunity to compliment the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) for his speech. I remember when he had a long filibuster going here a few short years ago.

Mr. Wildman: A filibuster?

Mr. Epp: Yes, a filibuster or something of that nature. He spoke for a number of hours.

Mr. Breagh: A fine speech it was. It was 11 hours long.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He was reading the Oshawa telephone book, I think.

Mr. Epp: I think so. That was when a different government was in place.

Miss Stephenson: He was exceeded only by the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) in terms of length.

Mr. Epp: He was exceeded by the member for Renfrew North not only in length but also in eloquence, I believe.

Miss Stephenson: I am not sure about that. I would match them.

5 p.m.

Mr. Epp: Nevertheless, during these debates it is customary for new members in particular to speak a little about their ridings. As a member who has been here a number of years, I would like to change that tradition a little and speak about my riding.

I am very proud to represent the riding of Waterloo North. As we travel about the province, particularly when by-elections are going on, we get a better idea of the various ridings people live in. In going to York East, to Scarborough West or to Sault Ste. Marie when there are by-elections, I get a better understanding of our ridings.

During the throne speech debates, budget debates or whatever, we have opportunities to speak a little about the ridings and to tell people about the composition of the ridings. In Waterloo North, for instance, there is the city of Waterloo and two townships, as the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) well knows. We have a population of approximately 86,000 people. Those three municipalities and their populations have a number of interesting aspects.

The industrial heartland of our area is to a large extent in Waterloo North. We have some very large and important companies there. Seagram is a company all members can readily identify with. Labatt's Blue comes from Labatt's. We even have a small brewery, the Brick Brewery Co. I am sure all members have used those fine products from time to time and have helped the economy of Waterloo North by purchasing them.

We have other types of industries. Raytheon produces the radar for airports and for various industries. IBM is a large international business company. In addition, because we are the Hartford of Canada, we have the head offices of five or six insurance companies. When members purchase insurance, the money they pay probably comes back to Waterloo North, and I thank them for that.

Although we do not have any hospitals, the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), who is just a short distance behind me, has two hospitals in his riding. The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) has the other hospital. Waterloo is probably the only city with a population of more than 60,000 that does not have a hospital in its jurisdiction.

Mr. Barlow: You have two universities. Tell us about those.

Mr. Epp: We have two thriving world-class universities, with one of the leading engineering, computer and mathematics faculties in North America, if not in the world. The present government and the previous government have both been very generous to the city of Waterloo from time to time.

Mr. Barlow: Particularly the previous government.

Mr. Epp: As the member for Cambridge knows, the previous government promised to contribute \$30 million to the William G. Davis computer building, which is now being built, and the present government is honouring that promise.

Mr. Barlow: That is very good of them.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: People have learned at the universities how not to get sick.

Mr. Epp: One of the interesting things about not having a hospital is that very few people can ever say they were born in Waterloo. There are so many people who would like to be able to say they were born there, but they cannot. That is unfortunate, and it is something we are going to have to deal with in the future.

Mrs. Marland: They will be able to, with the new midwives.

Miss Stephenson: I would hope not. They are not returning to medieval standards.

Mr. Epp: That may help the situation somewhat. The other interesting thing is the mosaic of people who live there. They are very reasonable, understanding, hardworking people. They believe in the work ethic. There are those who would not want to identify with the work ethic, but I am glad to be able to identify with it, and I think the people of Waterloo North closely identify with it.

When we are talking about the educational system, it is interesting to note that we have not had a strike either in our large secondary school system or in our large separate school system. The teachers, trustees and negotiators have been very reasonable. As a result of that reasonableness and willingness to co-operate to build a strong, world-class educational system, we have had no strikes. That is a compliment to both the teachers and the trustees.

In addition to being the industrial heartland, as I like to call it, a number of farmers live in the area. Many members have heard about the Mennonites and their various sects: the Amish, the Old Order and so forth. They live in the

constituency. Many of them are moving away because of the progress and the industrialization in the area. They feel they do not want to live too close to urban areas. As a result, they are moving 100 to 150 miles farther north.

Some of the Mennonites have carriages; they will not have cars. Some of them have electricity in their barns, but will not have it in their homes. Others will have it in their homes and in their barns. Others will buy cars. Some of them will paint the bumpers black because they do not want the chrome showing. Despite these differences from the general population, these people make a very valuable contribution to the area, not only from the standpoint of their farm production but also from the standpoint of the tourist industry. A lot of people come to the area just to drive by their farms. When people go by some of those old Mennonite churches on a Sunday morning, they may see 50 or 100 carriages with horses standing outside.

In addition to the people, we have a number of important festivals. We all remember Oktoberfest. There is probably not a person in this Legislature who has not been able to come down and partake of some of the Wiener schnitzel, Schneider's sausage, buns and particularly the beer. Although the four German clubs that are the centre of that festival are in Kitchener and Kitchener-Wilmot, there are many other clubs. The largest club entertaining people during that time is in the city of Waterloo. This Bavarian festival attracts about 300,000 people to our area every year. It brings a lot of money to the area and helps provide a very high standard of living for our citizens.

The unemployment rate is only about five per cent in our very thriving area. We are almost to the level where only unemployables are not employed. I would not want members to tell too many people about that, because people will start going down to Kitchener-Waterloo and we will have even greater pressure on the housing market. It is very difficult to buy the kind of house one wants there without taking into consideration the high inflation in the prices of homes during the past year. House prices in Kitchener-Waterloo, and primarily in Waterloo, went up by 30 to 35 per cent last year, even though inflation went up by only four or five per cent. That is a tremendous increase in home prices. It means a lot of people are not able to buy those homes, as they would very much like to do.

5:10 p.m.

Going on to more specific aspects of the throne speech, I notice some of the members in this

chamber have been critical that the throne speech is very general in nature. If these members go back a number of years, they will find throne speeches by their very nature are general documents. Throne speeches are not specifically designed to address the kinds of things one wants and to give the time and place, the number of jobs they are going to create, the cost and so on. Besides, if they did that, we would not give the government another opportunity to make those other announcements in which it could be more specific.

The members of the official opposition know this is exactly what they tried to do when they were in power. They tried to be very general in their throne speech addresses so they would then have another opportunity to be more specific in the budget, which is meant to be specific, and during ministerial statements as well as during the introduction of government bills.

The throne speech did address a number of specific things. It was not designed to be a shopping list of 2,001 different items; it was designed to address the kinds of things that the Liberal government of Ontario feels are very important for 1986 and possibly for the next decade.

As a result of that, the speech spoke about the senior citizens and the kinds of issues we have to address to try to correct some of the difficulties surrounding that area of concern. It addressed women's issues. We want to bring women to economic equality with men, something that has not occurred for many years; in fact, I do not remember when it ever has occurred. I hope it occurs in our lifetime, but I do not expect it is going to occur within the next few decades.

The throne speech also spoke about nuclear power. It is important that we find alternative ways to bring power to our homes and industries. Two things are happening that the government is looking at very closely with respect to alternative ways. The former member of this chamber for Halton-Burlington, who decided not to run during the last election, as members know, is working in the Ministry of Energy and is devoting much of his time to finding alternatives to nuclear power. He was a leading authority in this chamber on that issue, and he is now in a position to address it on a more full-time basis. All of us will be beneficiaries of his intelligence and dedication to that issue.

The other important issue that occurred is the Chernobyl disaster. As a result of that, as unfortunate as it is, we will be forced to address

alternative sources of power more aggressively in the immediate future.

I noticed that the member for Oshawa mentioned a number of things that are happening in northern Ontario. The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) complimented him for addressing problems that are in the northern part of this province. That is important, and the reason we are addressing more things in the north is that this government is sensitive to the things that are happening up north as well as to those that are happening in eastern Ontario.

It is so easy to address our concerns only to southwestern or southern Ontario, where most of the population lives. But with the change of government and with the change of emphasis, given the importance of the province looking at areas that have not been addressed as thoroughly and as aggressively in the past as they might have been, this government is looking at eastern and northern Ontario, where there is more unemployment and where they need more industrial development.

I hope the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) tries to encourage industry, including the Toyotas of the future, to go to eastern and northern Ontario. As much as the member for Cambridge appreciates the fact that they have gone to Cambridge—they have had some unemployment problems in Cambridge, which is immediately adjacent to my riding—nevertheless in the future, if we can give incentives to companies to go up north and to eastern Ontario, then we should do so. Not only will it help those areas, but it will also help all of us in bringing about a more balanced industrial province than we have.

All of us should be very proud of the province we have. It is one of the finest places in the country and one of the finest places in the world.

The member for Oshawa is in a good position to speak about the rules of the House. As chairman of the standing committee on procedural affairs for four years—he now is chairman of the new standing committee on the Legislative Assembly—he was instrumental in bringing about some of these changes in the rules of the House, as the member for St. Catharines indicated.

I am pleased that the whole procedure has had an airing and that the transition went so smoothly. I have not heard any real complaints about the new rules. I believe they give all members, particularly the back-benchers, both in the opposition and on the government side an opportunity to address some of the issues of the day. Even if they have an opportunity to speak

for only two or three minutes, they can get their thrust in at any time if they wish.

I was on the procedural affairs committee for almost four years. We went to Ottawa to study the new rules there. Our rules probably are an improvement. The fact that we do not have evening sittings is a welcome change. I never thought they were very productive. We have not added hours as far as the length of the sittings is concerned, but we will accomplish more during the hours we are here.

The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is shaking his head. I am not sure whether he disagrees with me or with something the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) said. I guess it is the latter.

Mr. McClellan: The member for Brantford; I never disagree with you.

Mr. Epp: Thank you.

I like the idea of the statements the members have an opportunity to give at the beginning of the sitting. A limited amount of time is allotted for that, but it gives each member who is not in the cabinet an opportunity to address issues of importance in his riding, to introduce guests and so forth. That was denied to us under the previous rules.

Now that television is in the chamber, the people back home can see what we look like and the ties we are wearing and whether they are red or blue or whatever the case might be. I see a little smile on the face of the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton). I am sure he will be up at the end of this speech giving his—

Mr. Warner: A lovely job. Is there something wrong with his tie?

Mr. Epp: Not at all; it is very neutral.

Mr. Warner: You have a nice one.

Mr. Epp: Thank you.

The changes we have made are important. They are bringing a breath of fresh air into the chamber as far as the participation of the members is concerned.

The throne speech spoke about skills training. I was a counsellor at a high school for a number of years. At that time, many students in grade 9 to grade 13 did not know which occupation they wanted to choose. With the new emphasis on skills training by this government, counsellors in the various high schools across the province have to be educated to try to encourage people to develop their skills at an early level and build in some goals early in their careers. There are thousands of occupations they can choose from.

5:20 p.m.

One of the problems we always faced was that students went out into the work force but there were no proper apprenticeship programs in this province and probably in this country. With this new skills training, I hope that more apprenticeship programs will actually develop and that our young people will be able to get the proper training so we do not have to bring in citizens from other countries to fill skilled positions in this province. That has been an unfortunate situation for years. It is one that we spoke of in opposition and one that we now have an opportunity to correct. I am sure that, under the proper leadership, we will be able to correct this in the foreseeable future.

The other matter I want to speak about has to do with the world-class system of care. On average, our citizens are getting older every year. By 2001, we will have an increase of 41 per cent in the number of citizens over 65 years of age. The member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), the minister responsible for senior citizens affairs, will shortly be tabling his white paper on care for our seniors and on how we must address these problems. I await that with some anxiety, because within a few years all of us will be senior citizens. Some of us may already have reached that stage.

Mr. Ferraro: The member should speak for himself.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He just feels that way.

Mr. Epp: Not yet.

As a result, we will have to remain productive and perhaps be even more productive in the future. We have to find ways of keeping our citizens in the work force as long as possible. I am sure that many senior citizens would like to do that, despite the fact that they may not want to be there on a full-time basis. The strategy that this government and this Legislature have to develop has to be very meaningful and is going to be very important in charting our course for the future.

One of the other concerns I have has to do with the Election Finances Reform Act and the reform that the throne speech promised in the foreseeable future. All of us have gone through leadership campaigns. For instance, we found that some candidates used the Election Finances Reform Act to give tax credits to contributors to their campaigns. Other candidates did not want to do this because they did not feel it was right or legal.

I believe the new act has to address the contributions to leadership campaigns as well as the amount of expenditures during a campaign.

As we know, some people spent \$10,000 to \$15,000 on election campaigns in their ridings, and other members spent up to \$100,000, or even more, on their election or re-election. Some of them won those campaigns and some of them lost. In my riding, I spent about \$36,000 and won; the candidate who came second spent \$37,000 and lost. The relationship in expenditures between the two top contenders for that riding is fairly close. As a result of that, we should look at averages that were expended in the last election and try to put a ceiling on the amount people are going to spend. In doing that, unfortunately, we are going to have to keep very close tabs on the way money is spent in the various campaigns, whether before the writ is issued or after it is issued.

The other concern I have is about the fact that there is no tax credit for municipal candidates. Although we are in a provincial forum here, what has been happening in the past in some areas—not right across the province—is that some municipal politicians have had support from provincial riding associations. I do not believe that is right. I do not believe the tax credit was designed so a provincial organization could raise money and then give it to a municipal candidate.

When we revise the act, I believe it has to address that problem, which is otherwise known as laundering money. I do not like the term “laundering,” but that essentially is what happened in the past when municipal candidates got support from provincial organizations. This is one change on which we are going to get nearly unanimous, if not unanimous, support in this House.

One of the matters that members have spoken about a great deal in this chamber has been the \$1-billion high-technology fund that is to be established under the leadership of the Premier. This is particularly relevant in my riding as well as in industrial Ontario. The more than \$500 million of new money that will be generated and put into that fund will be an incentive to create jobs across the province. It will be helpful from the standpoint of having people in the academic area of our province address new problems.

For instance, I notice that when an innovation comes out in one part of the world it takes about four or five years to have that innovation implemented in Japan. In Canada, it takes about seven or eight years. That is two or three years longer than it should take. I hope that \$1-billion fund will address the problem of reducing the time from innovation to implementation, to bring

it closer to that required in Japan as opposed to the current requirement in Canada.

The science and entrepreneurship chairs that are going to be established in some universities are innovative and progressive steps which I think we all applaud.

Also inherent in the address with respect to the high-technology fund is the challenge to our young people to look more aggressively at the problems in this country that surround technology, particularly in this province. Many of them will take mathematics, science, computer science and engineering more seriously in the future.

In all, I commend the Lieutenant Governor for having read such a fine document. It is something I am sure we all applaud and, if we look at the progressiveness of this province, be able to support when that vote comes next week.

Mr. Warner: Where did the member for Waterloo North find the reference to apprenticeship training in the speech from the throne? In particular, where is there any reference to having for the first time the kind of apprenticeship program that will involve all three partners, government, business and labour? In my reading of the throne speech, I found absolutely no mention of mandating the kind of levy-grant system that has been so successful in West Germany.

Second, I was surprised the member made reference to waiting for this magical white paper to appear with regard to services for seniors. I must assume the member has not seized the opportunity to read Bill 3, An Act for the Provision and Integration of Community Based Services for Seniors, otherwise known as the Seniors' Independence Act. I commend him to read it, and I invite him to appear in the House on May 29, when this bill will be debated. Of course, I would appreciate his support.

5:30 p.m.

I remind the member for Waterloo North that while the white paper may be of great interest, all the services that can and should be provided are outlined in Bill 3. Perhaps he would do all of us and the seniors a favour by reading the bill and supporting it, as many municipalities across this province are already prepared to do. If the member has a moment, perhaps he will answer my question about skills training.

Mr. Barlow: I wish to make a few comments to my colleague the member for Waterloo North. The member for Kitchener, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) and I share Waterloo region. I agree with pretty well

everything he said about his riding up to the point about the figures on the unemployment rate. Fortunately for Waterloo North, it has an excellent employment rate. We in the riding of Cambridge are not quite as fortunate. Our unemployment rate now is probably around 14 per cent. We have high hopes that when Toyota gets mobile, the rate will improve drastically. We look forward to that.

Every once in a while the member referred to the throne speech. That was good; I was glad to hear him refer to the throne speech once in a while. Talking about throne speeches traditionally being in generalities, this is the most generality-filled throne speech I have heard in more than five years around here. There were a lot of generalities. There were a lot of programs borrowed from former throne speeches and from programs the previous government had initiated, announced and prepared for during the past year or two. For many of these programs, the mechanisms were already in place. The member was very proud of the \$50 million a year that will be going to the SOB program, the son-of-BILD program. If the government had taken a good look at what could and should have been done, it would have come up with a lot more new money than \$50 million a year.

Skills training has already been mentioned. There was not enough about the skills training program.

Mr. Gillies: I listened with rapt attention to the speech of my friend the member for Waterloo North. I think the highlight of the speech was his reference to members' ties. There is quite a science to this. If the honourable member checks with a media consultant, he will find the biggest danger on camera is ties with a pattern that seems to crawl. I do not think the member's tie looks as if it would crawl. I watched with rapt attention when the member for Oshawa spoke. His tie is a very comforting, low-key maroon. It is not a tie that is going to alarm the people of Ontario as they watch this debate on television.

Mr. Warner: Do you like my tie?

Mr. Gillies: I do not want to comment on that tie; I think it is okay.

I can appreciate that even a speaker with the eloquence of the member for Waterloo North finds it difficult to find things to talk about in this speech from the throne. I am not surprised he talked about ties. What else is there? He used the watchwords of this throne speech. He used the words "world class" at least twice. This is a throne speech that indulged in truly world-class rhetoric; there is no question about that.

The member touched on new product development and on how we have to improve in that area. I could not agree more. He mentioned how the Japanese tend to get on to a new product and develop their own version of it in perhaps five years, whereas in Ontario and Canada it may be closer to seven years or 10 years. With all the references in the throne speech to the year 2000, it appears that the aim of the government is to try to get that up to 15 years or 20 years. I hope this trend can be arrested.

In conclusion, the Minister of the Environment spoke in defence of night sittings. I join with him in that. I think the night sittings were truly remarkable occasions that will be missed by truly remarkable members.

Mr. Breagh: I was intrigued that the member hit on the theme of a municipal elections expenses act. Since I am an advocate of that theme, I wonder whether he will help us out. Is it the government's intention to move, finally, to put in place a municipal elections expenses act, such as we now have provincially and federally? It is something that is long overdue and there is a crying need for it. It would be wonderful if the new government would actually take that problem under its wing as well.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other questions or comments? Does the member for Waterloo North wish to respond?

Mr. Epp: Yes, very briefly. I was interested to hear the member for Cambridge referring to the SOB fund; I guess he was referring to the son of BILD fund, rather than something else. I want to get that clear. He said it so quickly that I was not quite sure he understood what reference he was making.

Mr. Barlow: I think that is what I said.

Mr. Breagh: He was the father of that project.

Miss Stephenson: We have no difficulty understanding that.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There she is.

Mr. Epp: Yes, there she is.

With respect to the apprenticeship program and the skills training, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) is very cognizant of the problems we have in this area. Since the throne speech is a very general document, there may very well be some incentives taken in the future that would help us to expand on the apprenticeship programs we have in the province. I do not see any particular difficulty there.

I was not surprised the member raised that issue; I was surprised that although he was on his feet for at least 30 seconds to a minute, he did not call for anybody's resignation. That was surprising.

Mr. Partington: I welcome this opportunity to address the House in response to the speech from the throne. While I recognize this was the government's maiden throne speech, I am being charitable in saying I was not only disappointed with the content, but with the lack of content. Given the number of high-priced employees the government has at its disposal, I expected a more thoughtful and progressive document than the one presented in the Legislature two weeks ago.

The omissions that were glaringly obvious were references to the automotive and automotive parts industries, the promised work-place child care initiative fund, a concrete approach to housing, equal pay for work of equal value and the mining and forestry industries. This is by no means a complete list of the urgent issues facing Ontarians which were not addressed in the speech from the throne.

The government outlined its intended reforms in the justice area, but curiously neglected any mention of the small claims court system. In its preamble to how the Ontario justice system will be reformed, the government said, "Steps will be taken to improve the public's access to the justice system, regardless of income, and assure speedy resolution of disputes." How can the government believe the taxpayers and citizens of this province will take this statement as a serious commitment when in Ontario today there currently exists one small claims court system for Torontonians and another, less equitable small claims court system, for the rest of Ontario? It is not the fact of two systems that disturbs me, but that the system existing outside Toronto is substantially inferior to that in force in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There is a nice courthouse in St. Catharines now.

Mr. Partington: The member for St. Catharines should also be concerned that this injustice is continuing for too long.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I like the word "continuing." It was for 42 years.

Mr. Partington: I missed that.

Mr. Barlow: He just got here; he is working on it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The members for Cambridge and St. Catharines will please not interrupt the speaker.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Partington: If this government claims that public access to our justice system is to be improved to guarantee access to all, then the \$3,000-limit in small claims court in the city of Toronto must be extended to the rest of the province.

Mr. Warner: Hear, hear.

Mr. Partington: I thank the member very much. That is unusual, but I will accept that.

To further bring home the degree of inequity that currently exists in the small claims court system, I would like to read the contents of a letter I received on Monday of this week. The letter is from Dennis Dunbar, president of Lincoln Collection Agencies, in St. Catharines. It reads:

"I am writing to request your assistance respecting an increase in the monetary jurisdiction of the Niagara area small claims courts. It is my understanding that legislation presently exists to effect such a change and that a major prerequisite is the appointment of a full-time judge for the venue concerned."

"As you know, Judge Kingston has been small claims court judge in the Niagara area courts for some time. He also sits in the Toronto area courts on a regular basis, where this increase has been in place for several years. He obviously is experienced in handling claims in courts of higher jurisdiction."

He is obviously, as the member for St. Catharines will agree, a very well-qualified individual. I will continue with the letter from Mr. Dunbar:

"For years I have found it necessary to reduce claims being filed in the small claims court on behalf of my clients for sums considerably in excess of the present \$1,000-limit. Lately those numbers have significantly increased, and creditors in the Niagara area small claims courts are being unjustly penalized by the court's inability to entertain the full amount of their claim. To file a claim in district court would be ludicrous if the amount were less than \$3,000, bearing in mind the time delays and excessive costs related to the amount that might eventually be recovered after judgement.

"The Niagara courts presently enjoy most of the amenities necessary to afford an increase in jurisdiction. There is an immediate need for an increase if creditors are to be treated fairly before the courts and given the opportunity to claim sums that are justly theirs, as is the case in other areas of the province.

"I respectfully solicit your support in this cause and request that you take this matter up with whomever might bring about the necessary changes."

I have questioned the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) about this in the past in the standing committee on administration of justice. The message back to me was that the \$5-million cost in implementing this plan across Ontario could not be justified under the current circumstances. That is an absolutely unfair position to take with respect to the people of Ontario. The citizens of Ontario deserve justice and fair play. The citizens of St. Catharines, London or Sault Ste. Marie deserve to be treated as fairly as the citizens of Toronto by the court system.

Why does Toronto have a \$3,000-limit for small claims court while the rest of the province remains at \$1,000? The result of this is to permit people in Toronto to process their claims in small claims court while justice is not available to many of our citizens in the rest of the province.

It would be easy to introduce this system in St. Catharines, Hamilton and Ottawa where qualified judges currently exist. Earlier mention was made of Judge Kingston, a man who carries out his duties in Toronto with the highest degree of professionalism. The citizens of the Niagara area would be well served by having Judge Kingston able to make available his time and services to the people of the Niagara region. I am sure the member for St. Catharines would support me on that stand.

The government was unquestionably remiss in neglecting to include a statement of intent within its speech from the throne. If the government can afford to spend \$50 million on a denticare program and give up \$1.9 billion in Ontario health insurance plan revenues, it must be able to afford \$5 million to improve public access to the justice system across the province regardless of income. The government must extend its limit on small claims court and it must do it now. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Tourism, which is Ontario's second-largest industry, was also shortchanged in the government's maiden speech from the throne. While the north and east received specific mention, major tourism areas along the Golden Horseshoe and in southwestern Ontario were buried in vague rumblings of world-class this and that.

In the light of the government's stated intent to improve rest stops, perhaps the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) should give consideration to changing Ontario's slogan

to "We seat you royally," as opposed to the current slogan "We treat you royally."

Our province needs more than improved signage, rest stops and travel information. It needs more than the minuscule packet of goodies tossed out to it by this government. If Ontario's industry is to remain healthy, it needs and begs a commitment from this government to change its tax structure. It needs a commitment to reverse some of the highly contentious and regressive taxes imposed by this government in its economic statement. Our tourism industry deserves financial encouragement and incentive from this government if it is ever to reach its full potential.

As members of all parties in this House are aware, the leader of my party recently released a Progressive Conservative discussion paper, *Care for the Elderly*. That paper called for a massive expansion of community programs and services to allow senior citizens to live healthy, independent and dignified lives outside institutions. Ontario will experience a 55 per cent increase in the number of senior citizens over the next 15 years. If we maintain our current pattern of institutionalizing our elderly, it will cost an additional \$6 billion to build and operate new facilities. I find it somewhat inappropriate that the government currently spends \$855 million per year on the placement of the elderly in institutions, compared with only \$85 million on alternative community support programs.

It is my belief that these funds could be better spent in improving the network of community-based services for the elderly as well as increased housing for seniors. Services and programs such as home care, homemakers' services, nursing care, respite care, Meals on Wheels and handyman programs could and should be co-ordinated at the local level by placement co-ordinating agencies. They should also be linked to the extended care system. The placement co-ordinating agencies would then co-ordinate home support services for their area.

When nursing homes and homes for the aged are not appropriate options for elderly citizens unable to remain in their own homes, alternative housing options must be available. The granny-flat concept, which was introduced under the Progressive Conservative government, is one housing alternative which should be expanded into every region of the province. Granny flats are self-contained, single-storey dwellings designed for easy installation in average-size suburban backyards. They cost less than institutions and have the advantage of allowing the elderly to remain in close proximity to their

families and friends. Other housing alternatives for consideration are the elderly enriched housing program and senior citizens' co-operative housing. Many other options are available for government consideration, but government commitment to the elderly must come first.

In my party's discussion paper, *Care for the Elderly*, to which I referred earlier, there was a recommendation that a multidisciplinary department of geriatrics be established at one of our province's universities. I was pleased to see that the government intends to follow this recommendation.

On June 10, 1985, I had the pleasure of responding to another speech from the throne. I am glad to see the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) is here tonight, because I know of his concern for this issue. At that time, I indicated my concern for the environment. I spoke of the need for the assurance that our water is safe to drink, our fish safe to eat and our lakes and rivers safe to swim in. I am still concerned about our environment. I am concerned that the water quality of the Niagara River has not improved over the past year and that it continues to be little more than a convenient dumping ground for industry on the American side of the river.

5:50 p.m.

It is imperative that the government redouble its efforts to hammer out an agreement with the applicable American levels of government to put an end to this travesty. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) indicated earlier today that the government has joined in two lawsuits in the United States in furtherance of this goal. Perhaps the government should consider an action in the International Court of Justice in The Hague to force the state of New York and the government of the United States to discontinue the pollution of the Niagara River and the Great Lakes system.

I was encouraged to hear the government intends to pursue further protection of our water quality through environmental control technologies. I was also pleased to hear of the government's intent to strengthen the penalty provisions of environmental laws. I would have liked to have seen in the statement a greater commitment by this government to eliminate industrial and municipal waste. Perhaps the government should provide financial assistance for municipalities to upgrade treatment facilities where needed, to replace them where needed and to install new ones.

Storm water discharges, continued sewer overflows and infiltration of ground water are known sources of persistent toxic substances whose impact has been clearly documented in localized situations, such as harbours. I urge the government and the Minister of the Environment to make available to municipalities whatever money is necessary to implement a plan to eliminate these sources of persistent toxic substances, so that purer water can be provided to us all without delay.

In keeping with that and with the time of year, I find it unacceptable that our beaches continue to be posted as unfit for swimming. I urge the government to take whatever action is necessary to clean them up once and for all, not over a 10-year period, but now.

The government pledged \$500 million for new technology. I urge the government to look to the future health of Ontarians, and in doing so, to earmark some of these funds for improving our water treatment and purification processes. I recognize the technology fund referred to in the throne speech was in the amount of \$1 billion, but \$500 million of that was committed one year ago as part of the Progressive Conservative Party's Enterprise Ontario program. I therefore restrict myself to seeking a commitment out of the new funds for the improvement of our water supply.

Housing is purported by this government to be of vital concern, particularly low-income and middle-income housing; yet there was no mention of housing initiatives in this lengthy document.

Mr. Haggerty: There were 300 units built in Niagara Falls and in St. Catharines just recently.

Mr. Partington: That is right; there were units, but not enough units. Since taking power last year, this government has tightened rent controls, put a significant tax on properties that change hands and is now threatening to legislate an end to a building owner's right to convert his unit from rental to condominium.

The government has already brought in one budget-type document in which the need for affordable housing for low-income and middle-income families could have been addressed, but it was not. There was mention in that budget of building more affordable units, but with a stroke of the same pen, the government antagonized landlords by further dictating what is an acceptable annual rent increase.

Individuals and families that had been saving towards the purchase of a home suddenly found themselves having to provide additional funds

for the budget's land transfer tax. The tax is set at a lower rate for less expensive homes, but that is little comfort for a first-time home buyer who already has to face a barrage of other costs and expenses. If the government were sincere about its concern for affordable housing, provision should have been made in the throne speech for a thorough review of rent controls, the rental markets around the province, the reasons behind the push for condominium conversions and the best way to meet the rental and home ownership needs of our low- and middle-income citizens. I suspect this government has forgotten that one of the answers to housing is to stimulate home ownership. Rather than force the market to meet the stipulations of the government, why not force government stipulations to meet the needs of the market?

The now famous—or perhaps I should say infamous—accord that brought this government to power contained three items dealing directly with women and women's issues. They were, and I quote directly from the accord: "Introduce legislation for equal pay for work of equal value in both the public and the private sector, affirmative action and employment equity for women, minorities and the handicapped and expansion of the role and budget of the human rights commission to deal with work-place and housing discrimination; and reform of day care policy and funding to recognize child care as a basic public service and not a form of welfare."

Mr. Breauth: This is great stuff.

Mr. Partington: I am quoting from the accord.

In the throne speech, these three items were given only passing mention. Within the context of this 36-page document, any government serious about the need for affordable, accessible, quality day care facilities would surely have devoted more than one line to this vital issue, but the only reference to day care was one line that said "new spaces will be created."

Employment equity was similarly afforded one line in the speech. These two items fared well in comparison with the matter of equal pay for work of equal value. This critical issue went unmentioned.

On average, women earn no more than two thirds of the wages of their male counterparts; yet a government that claims to be taking the people of this province into the next century, claims to have a vision and claims to work for sound reforms cannot even attend to three commitments it made to the women of this province when it was seeking their needed support to put it into

office. Women may have a right to fair and equitable treatment, but they will realize that right only when the government takes responsibility for guaranteeing it to them.

I find the government's intent to introduce legislation permitting the distribution of beer and wine in independent grocery stores to be somewhat paradoxical. We have a government pledging to put this legislation before the House while at the same time, in the same speech from the throne, it states that "those who drink and drive will be vigorously prosecuted."

Further, and I again quote from the throne speech, "Building on Ontario's record in traffic safety and efforts to combat drunk driving, funds will be provided to expand the Ontario Provincial Police reduce impaired driving everywhere program." How can a government that claims to be firmly committed to stopping the carnage on our roads even suggest moving towards corner and convenience store distribution of wine and beer?

Our party recently published the findings of our task force on wine and beer in convenience and corner stores. We toured the province, received submissions from groups and individuals and had public input on this matter. It was an overwhelming majority of Ontarians who told us to oppose any such move by this government. What these people want is not the establishment of a distribution system through corner and convenience stores but an expansion of the existing distribution system.

We listened and we reported. But if the throne speech is any indicator, and I have to believe it is, the government either did not receive a copy of our report or chose to ignore it. I suspect it is the latter.

This province is leading our sister provinces on the road to economic recovery. While we still have serious unemployment problems, they were being addressed two and three years ago. Similarly, our housing problems were being addressed two and three years ago. Our export markets have been broadened by the effort three and four years ago by members such as the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), who opened the door to our twin province in China and sought active trade partnerships beyond our sister provinces.

Affirmative action was started under the Tories and, at the behest of the New Democratic Party, was supposedly to have been a priority with the current government.

6 p.m.

I could go on ad infinitum about the problems that were up and running when this government came to power, but that is not the issue today. The issue today is how the government intends to lead this province further along the road to recovery, how it intends to make so many aspects of this province truly world class.

The leader of the third party said this speech could have been written by Bill Davis. I suggest it was, but at the right time, at a time when the ideas contained in it were truly new ideas. For the citizens of this great province, I sincerely hope the upcoming budget has more substance than this 36-page document.

Mr. McClellan: I am really fascinated at the—

Mr. Speaker: I understand these are comments.

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Comments or questions.

Mr. McClellan: This is part of the new standing orders.

I am really fascinated at the difference of opinion that is being expressed by successive Conservative speakers during this throne speech debate on the subject of rent control. I do not know whether this means that the speakers are laying the groundwork for a fundamental change in policy on the part of the Conservative Party wherein they will come out in opposition to rent controls, or whether they are floating a number of trial balloons.

However, I would like to ask the member for Brock to elaborate a little bit on the very interesting and provocative remarks he had to make. He is not the first Conservative speaker during this throne speech debate to raise questions about whether rent controls should be eliminated. As a matter of fact, I have forgotten who it was, but one of the speakers—

Mr. Breough: The member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory).

Mr. McClellan: The member for Mississauga East raised similar trial balloons in his speech the other day. I also heard the member for Brock—at least I think I heard the member for Brock—argue that a freeze on condominium conversions was somehow undesirable. Of course, this would put him in terrible conflict with the Conservative Housing critic, but it would not put him in conflict with the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), who also supports condominium conversions in his own riding.

Perhaps as the second question, the member will clarify whether he is in favour of condominium conversions or opposed to them and will tell

us whether he is speaking for the Conservative Party or whether he is just winging it.

Mr. Haggerty: I was interested in the comments of the member for Brock. He sounded critical of the Ministry of the Environment for not doing anything. The member for St. Catharines has done more in 10 months than the former government did in the past 42 years. It did very little in that area in the past 42 years.

He talks about additional expenditure in the Niagara region for pollution abatement programs. I am concerned about that too. Specifically, I ask the member what areas he is concerned about in the Niagara region. Is it Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Niagara Falls or St. Catharines? I understand there has been heavy expenditure through regional government in the St. Catharines area on pollution abatement programs, particularly on sanitary sewers; so I have to give the past government credit in that area.

I am concerned about his position on rent controls. I interpreted his comments to mean he is no longer supporting rent controls. I believe the Tory speech from the throne a year ago had indicated that rent controls would not apply at six per cent but at four per cent. What is his position on that?

Mr. Philip: The member took credit for affirmative action on behalf of the Conservative Party; yet in the House only a couple of days ago the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) announced that she had to start a new research project to create a data base on which to find out exactly who was being discriminated against in the public service. With all the affirmative action programs of the previous Conservative government, one must ask how it could do anything when it did not have the information on which to act. It did not even know which minority groups—women, ethnic, coloured or disabled—were being discriminated against in its own civil service. How does he explain that?

The member talks about the need for home support services. Integrated homemaker programs were not just in this throne speech, but in the 1981 throne speech and in successive throne speeches, including that under the member for Muskoka. There has been a whole series of speeches, but no action. On any given day, there are 50 people in active treatment beds at the Etobicoke General Hospital alone who need that kind of support. I am glad he has come to a new conversion, but perhaps he should have looked at this in deciding which party he wanted to run for when he decided to run in the last election.

Mr. Gillies: I congratulate my colleague the member for Brock for an excellent speech. He raised a number of serious issues that are of concern to this party, and I will address two of them.

One is my colleague's comments about the question of pay equity. It must be a tremendous embarrassment to my friends in the New Democratic Party that through an accord with the Liberals, they have put in power a government that expends more rhetoric on the question of women's issues than perhaps on any other single issue, yet when the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) introduced his pay equity bill with great fanfare, it was the most parsimonious chicanery I can recall in this House. It contained the narrowest definition of the public sector: only some 29,000 women in the public service will be helped by it.

The Progressive Conservative Party has announced that it will be moving amendments to the government's pay equity bill to extend it to the broad public service, bringing in some 200,000 women who are not even considered in the Liberal bill.

Interjections.

Mr. Gillies: My friends get the press releases, and they should read them. I announced this two weeks ago.

On the subject of rent controls, the member for Brock has raised some questions about rent controls that rumble through his mind as an independent and free-thinking member of our caucus. Unlike the New Democratic Party, there is all kinds of scope in the Progressive Conservative Party to think for oneself. Our members do and they express their views. Lest there be any misapprehension on the part of any members of the House, the Progressive Conservative Party, which introduced rent controls in this province in the first place, will support them as long as they are of benefit to the tenants of this province.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I commend the member for taking advantage of this opportunity to discuss matters of concern. I appreciate the support of the suggestions he has made about the endeavours of the Ministry of the Environment to solve the many problems that have accumulated over a long period.

I am pleased he recognizes that the main problem lies on the other side of the border rather than on our side. He knows that this minister has given orders to the ministry to address all the problems contained in the report of the Niagara River Toxics Committee and that we are moving in that direction. The continued effluent going in

is from the American side. I share his concern about the beaches in our area. He will be pleased with the announcement of grants from the Ministry of the Environment, involving the city of St. Catharines, the city of Thorold and the regional municipality of Niagara as well as Brock University, to pinpoint the precise sources of the pollution so we may put forth the necessary funds to solve the problem. He is on the right track in that regard, and I appreciate his support.

6:10 p.m.

Mr. Partington: I am happy to respond to the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) and the member for St. Catharines. I am concerned about all areas of the province, not just Erie, Port Colborne, Niagara-on-the-Lake or St. Catharines. As I indicated, the government has to redouble its efforts and commit whatever resources are required to clear up the site-specific pollution areas that we know about, the industrial plants and the municipal pollution that have always been major polluters of our environment. We have to recognize that. We continue to put in money to clear up the situation, because sewage is getting into the water system and putting an extra strain on our treatment facilities.

Mr. Breaugh: Get it on the record; he is avoiding rent review.

Mr. Partington: I will be getting to rent review. Actually, I could spend an hour on that later on if the member would like it.

Since I have been in this Legislature, I have been hearing that we have had pollution for 42 years. Anybody who understands pollution recognizes that it is an evolutionary process, and with our continued technology and growing population, we have to solve this problem as it goes on. Most members will realize that as late as 1969 and 1970, most books on the subject of international waters do not even mention pollution as a topic. The member should know that.

Rent controls were introduced as a solution to a housing crisis, and in their current form, they have not worked. They have failed to do two things. First, tenants must be treated fairly, but also the owners of property, be they municipal owners or private entrepreneurs, should be given the money to keep up the necessary repairs to the buildings and make a reasonable return on their investment over a period of time.

Mr. South: It is with great pleasure that I rise today before the assembly in support of the speech from the throne.

The year 1985 marked a time of significant change in Ontario. Since coming to office, our

government has set a hectic legislative pace. We have taken significant steps to implement policies that will ensure the availability of affordable housing, justice for women, improved rights for workers, equality of funding for the separate school system, greater accountability and freedom of information.

We have begun to address the challenge of a society that is steadily changing, and will continue to do so, by further providing excellence and relevance in education, affordable and accessible health care and social services for all, in the light of an ageing society and changing technology. In the past 10 months, more than 98 initiatives have been proposed by our government. These represent a fresh injection of new ideas, creative solutions to old problems, and most important, a new and dynamic leadership for Ontario.

With the delivery of the speech from the throne, our government recognized the needs and attributes of eastern Ontario. This is of particular interest to me as I have the privilege of representing the eastern Ontario riding of Frontenac-Addington.

For too long, eastern Ontario has been overlooked despite its enormous potential as a world-class tourism locale. Our government recognizes eastern Ontario's potential. In Frontenac-Addington alone, we have the St. Lawrence River and Rideau Canal systems, which are historic routes of trade and recreation; they are primary navigational links with the United States. Bon Echo Provincial Park is one of our many beautiful parks; it has irreplaceable Indian pictographs painted at the base of Mazinaw's sheer cliff face and has exceptional routes for canoeing. The Land O' Lakes region, which is primarily cottage country, is unspoiled and is perfect for family camping.

One aspect of tourism that is often overlooked is the world-renowned cheddar cheese we make; ask the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling).

Hon. Mr. Curling: Good cheese.

Mr. South: It will be a challenge for our government to create new promotion and marketing campaigns to make people aware of what eastern Ontario has to offer. It is essential that we recognize the great job potential, the nonpolluting nature of the industry and the fact that we have such a beautiful natural setting in eastern Ontario. Our government intends to encourage private sector investment in this industry. A review of existing financial assistance programs is needed. These programs have not been reviewed for several years, and there is a need to

take a fresh look at them to determine how well they meet current, changing market needs.

Tourism dollar potential in eastern Ontario is among the highest in our province. The Liberal government plans to utilize these resources in an affirmative manner. It is important to note that there has never been a tourism strategy in place in the past specifically geared to eastern and northern Ontario. Never before has there been consultation with industry and community representatives. Consultations will be held across the province to develop new, creative and innovative tourism development and promotion ideas. For the first time, Ontario will have developed an overall tourism strategy with considerable local input and not one dictated from Bay and Bloor streets.

Realizing eastern Ontario's potential for tourism, we must also seek to protect an important part of that potential: the environment. With the speech from the throne comes a renewed commitment to environmental protection. The preservation and restoration of the environment is of particular concern to us in the Kingston area. Our environmental heritage is important. Our health, economy and quality of life depend upon an unspoiled and sustainable environment. Ontario faces threats to its environmental security. Toxic chemicals, acid rain and hazardous waste pose serious problems. It is our duty to protect our inherited resource and to work to meet the environmental challenges that face us. Only if we all share the responsibility for the quality of our environment can we preserve it for generations.

Let me tell members something about the St. Lawrence River, which is so much a part of our past and present heritage. It was the St. Lawrence River that formed the route to the interior and attracted the early explorers and fur traders. It has formed the very backbone of the cultural, social and economic development not only of this province but also of this country.

Mr. Philip: But it is wet.

Mr. South: It is wet and beautiful.

Water is not a sometimes thing. We have the same water today that was here a thousand years ago or a million years ago.

Mrs. Grier: No. We do not. We are much worse off. I wish we did.

Mr. South: We do. Members had the same water in their orange juice this morning as slaked Caesar's sweating legions or Cleopatra in her bath.

Mrs. Grier: They never heard of chlorinated organics.

Mr. South: Have the members ever read Ecclesiastes? He says, "All the rivers flow into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again." That is the cycle. We have not changed the amount of water in the world; we have just changed its place from time to time. The battle for the waterhole is very important to us.

6:20 p.m.

I will admit the opposition party directly opposite did a lot of good things. It gave us a good highway system. It did a lot with regard to the environment.

Mr. Gillies: At last some honesty in the Liberal Party.

Mr. South: Wait for the shoe to drop.

The Conservatives did a lot for the environment. Many years ago, I worked for the Ontario Water Resources Commission. I do not think there were more than a dozen sewage treatment plants in Ontario then. The previous Tory government brought in a system of subsidies and grants that encouraged municipalities to build sewage treatment plants. It did a lot of good things, but then it got lazy. For one thing, there were nine Ministers of the Environment in 10 years. They could not stand the heat. They would not do anything positive. They ran out of new ideas. Like ancient Rome, they collapsed.

I would like to comment on some of the other bad things the previous government did, but maybe I should not.

Interjections.

Mr. South: I should give them another lick?

Mr. Warner: What about jobs in the liquor board?

Mr. South: Appointments to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario were cabinet appointments. That was bad. The previous government should not have done that; it was not very democratic. It is a lot like a wagon wheel going through mud. The more mud it goes through, the more mud it picks it. That is what happened to the previous government.

Interjections.

Miss Stephenson: If I had as much on me as you have on you—

Mr. South: The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) and her government did a lot of good things.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Frontenac-Addington has the floor.

Mr. South: The official opposition criticizes this government's throne speech because it contains too many of the previous government's ideas. I do not think there is anything wrong with that. Taking good ideas from one's opposition is smart. For the most part, that is all they were: ideas, possibilities or thoughts. The previous government was long on promises and short on delivery. We now have a government that is going to be long on delivery, even if we take the official opposition's good ideas.

Miss Stephenson: You are long on words and short on everything else.

Mr. South: The member should not be talking about shortness.

The opposition should judge us by our actions and not by the limitations, as it calls them, of fresh, innovative thought. After all, when a government has been in power for 42 years, it is pretty difficult to find something that has not been thought about, ruminated over and conjectured about, but the previous government never had the guts to do a lot of those things. I am proud to be part of a government that has both acted and reacted to vital signals from the public.

The Liberal government has shown determination through its spills bill. Do members remember that? For seven years the previous government talked and ruminated about it.

Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. South: The sky would fall down, Chicken Little. As the member will attest, it has not.

Miss Stephenson: No, but the turkeys have.

Mr. South: One of the members of the Progressive Conservative Party told us today that the sky is still blue up there. I remember his words.

In attempting to resolve some of the major areas of environmental concern, we as citizens must move ahead. The foundation has been laid. The Liberal government must continue to build upon this foundation. New incentives for tourism and renewed protection for the environment go hand in hand and must be pursued. The government must remain vigilant in both its environmental and tourism policies. We, the Liberal government, will meet that challenge.

Mr. Pollock: I am pleased to be here to hear the remarks of the member for Frontenac-Addington. I was pleased to hear him mention the fact that tourism is very important to eastern Ontario. He could not have timed that speech much better, because tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock we are meeting with the Minister of

Tourism and Recreation in Bancroft to discuss that very problem.

I will brief members on what is taking place there. An abandoned railway line runs from Marmora to Lake St. Peter. Over the years, the Conservative government had said it would take over that abandoned railway line for a recreation trail. However, it was not going to take it over until such time as all the abandoned railway lines came up for grabs in southern Ontario. Therefore, it did not act on it because some of those lines have not been officially closed yet.

However, on December 6, 1985, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) stated in writing that he was not interested in those abandoned railway lines. The people from that area are disturbed. We have already had several meetings. I attended one at Bancroft; I attended another one in Marmora. We are finally meeting with the minister tomorrow. A committee from Hastings county council will be there. I hope to be there to discuss this very important issue.

That corridor handles a lot of snowmobile traffic in the wintertime. People travel from the south up north to Bancroft. They stay in the hotels and spend tourist dollars there. In the summertime, recreation vehicles travel that abandoned railway line. It is a plus, and I am concerned about it. I hope the member will give the Minister of Tourism and Recreation his remarks.

Miss Stephenson: I am delighted to respond briefly and charitably to the input of the member for Frontenac-Addington. It is without any doubt the nicest remark I have heard today. He suggested that the previous government had done many good things, and the previous government did do many good things. It also contemplated many good things that it would have been delighted to fulfil had we not been in the midst of the most severe recession since 1929 and had we not been attempting to deal with the very problems of rapid change, which had begun in the middle of the 1960s.

However, I do want the member to recognize that there is real concern about the water of Ontario and of Canada. To suggest that we have exactly the same water today that we had at the

time of Cleopatra—who, I remind him, bathed not with water but with oil and milk—is totally erroneous. It is not just the content of the water that is different. We have not maintained on this planet the amount of water that we had in the days of Cleopatra. In fact, there has been much less concern for environmental problems in many parts of the world, particularly in the equatorial areas, and the cutting down of rain forests has significantly reduced the total supply of planetary water.

That is one of the things I hope we as citizens of this country might impress upon our international neighbours, because it is important for all of us to ensure that the water supply is not reduced any more. Look at our neighbours to the south. They are already looking enviously at us, because they have reduced their water supply very significantly. I hope the member, who is interested in water, will learn a little bit more about it.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member wish to reply at a later time?

On motion by Mr. South, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, May 12, the throne speech debate will wind up. As members will realize, the time is to be shared by the three parties and there will be a vote.

On Tuesday, May 13, following routine proceedings at 2 p.m., the House will adjourn until 4 p.m. for the presentation of the budget.

On Wednesday, May 14, the official opposition's response to the budget is scheduled.

On Thursday, May 15, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for private members' public business as previously ordered. In the afternoon, there will be the New Democratic Party's response to the budget, followed by general debate on the budget.

I will be making a later announcement if there are any additions to this order of business.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Ontario

Government
Publications

No. 12

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Monday, May 12, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 12, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

DISCLOSURE OF GRANTS

Mr. Runciman: I rise on a point of privilege. This morning my office was contacted by the Brockville Recorder and Times. I did not have an opportunity to speak to them. They had been phoned by the unsuccessful Liberal candidate in the last provincial election, Mrs. Dolores Wing, who announced a list of supplementary Ministry of Transportation and Communications road grants.

Mr. Gillies: They did not win that riding, did they?

Mr. Runciman: They are never going to win it.

I believe the normal procedure is to notify the local member first. This was not done. I feel my privileges as a member have been abused. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to investigate and rule on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the member's comments. I am not certain whether that is a point of privilege. I feel it would be more appropriate to ask the minister during question about what took place. However, I will review the comments made by previous Speakers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORLD FEST-FESTIMONDE

Mr. Guindon: I rise today to comment on tourism. Recently, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) announced a funding grant of \$10,000 to the Quinte air show and another \$10,000 in grant money to go to the Kingfest Tattoo. I must commend the honourable minister for his actions.

Cornwall is a drive of only an hour and a half east from Kingston on Highway 401 and is less than a 20-minute drive from the Quebec border. I am telling you this, Mr. Speaker, because I want you to know we exist.

This year, during Canada Week celebrations, Cornwall will be playing host to the world. This news is probably shocking to most members because they think Vancouver has the honour

with Expo 86, but around Cornwall that is known as the "other festival."

His Honour Lincoln M. Alexander has accepted an invitation to come to Cornwall on July 1 to celebrate with us during World Fest-Festimonde. World Fest-Festimonde started last year and is a festival of song and dance with performers from around the world. We have many groups coming to Cornwall this year from as far away as Poland, Italy, France and other countries.

The World Fest-Festimonde committee was turned down for funding by Wintario; so on March 7 I wrote to the Minister without Portfolio with responsibility for citizenship and culture (Mr. Ruprecht) asking him to clarify things for World Fest. I still have not received a reply. I did find out that his list—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. I am sorry.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have more about the swamp at 400 University Avenue. McDonnell Douglas had workers using a substance called trichloroethane. Mr. Tovey of the health and safety committee for the union asked that testing be done. Testing was done. The threshold limit value is 350 parts per million. In this case, tests conducted indicated that the workers were working at levels of 6,072 parts per million. The company provided them with respirators. Those respirators were good for 500 parts per million, about 15 times less than what the workers were exposed to.

At the same time, this company was also using dioxane. The manufacturer had not put on his data sheet the fact that dioxane causes nausea and so on. The TLV for that is 25 parts per million. When tests were done, they showed 274 parts per million.

What did the Ministry of Labour do? It wrote some more orders. One can go into company after company. They can violate the act and endanger the lives of workers in place after place, and what does the Ministry of Labour do? It continues to write dinky little orders and it refuses to protect the workers in this province.

STUDENT BAND

Mr. McKessock: I have four secondary schools within the boundaries of Grey riding, and

I am pleased today that 80 grade 10 students from the John Diefenbaker Secondary School in Hanover are with us.

I am also pleased to inform the House that the John Diefenbaker Secondary School band, which was first in the Muskoka division of the Canada Music Festival in Gravenhurst, will be one of the 26 bands from across Canada to compete in the Canadian Band Festival in Vancouver at Expo 86.

The Hanover band leaves tonight. It will be at Expo from May 13 to 19. I know it not only will entertain the audience well, but will also be a good ambassador for Canada while it is there.

WATER QUALITY

Ms. Fish: In January, after dioxin was discovered in the drinking water in several southwestern Ontario communities, I pressed the government to initiate epidemiological studies to assess the pattern of disease, death and birth defects in Windsor, Sarnia, Wallaceburg and Mitchell Bay. Four months later the government has heeded my call and agreed to investigate birth defects and cancer rates in Kent and Lambton counties, where many people draw their drinking water from the St. Clair River.

The object of the studies is to determine whether the drinking water or its river source is a factor in pregnancy irregularities and cancer rates. A similar study released by the Ministry of Health last August showed that birth defects in Hamilton and the surrounding area have increased at an alarmingly high rate. The report said this was probably because of pesticides and other chemicals in the environment.

It was only last fall that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) said that no level of dioxin was acceptable in Ontario's drinking water. However, the response to the discovery of dioxin was to issue a so-called safe level, and the minister's promise to help those communities so affected has not materialized.

In January the Minister of the Environment cut off the supply of powdered carbon to Wallaceburg's water system, leaving the municipality to foot the bill. While the government is spending \$200,000 to study birth defects and cancer rates, the Minister of the Environment refuses to spend \$200 a day to protect Wallaceburg residents. It is time for real action from this government. The presence of dioxin in Ontario's drinking water is too serious to ignore.

FORESTRY WORKERS

Mr. Ramsay: I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Natural Resources

(Mr. Kerrio) and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) a difficulty I am having in my area, which is relevant to the entire north. Why do we have such unemployment problems and underemployment problems? Is it that the government backs industry and gives generous grants to set up plants to use our wood resources in particular without setting any conditions on how employment should be derived that is going to be created in those plants?

In my area, there are basically two classes of forestry workers. One is the mill workers, who are very well paid and have many benefits, with an investment of only a lunch pail. They earn \$26,000 a year. On the other hand, there are the bush workers, who are terribly underpaid. We have two district cutting licences for the whole area and we have a system of contracting and subcontracting. By the time the bush worker is able to cut down a tree, he is fourth in a line of contractors and subcontractors.

In 1988, when we are reviewing DCLs for the Timiskaming area, I would ask the minister to look at allowing the small jobbers to have the DCLs feed these plants directly. Then the jobbers will be able to compete against each other and with other markets in the area and will derive a good living and not be underemployed or unemployed, as many of the people in our area are.

STAYNER ARENA

Mr. McCague: On April 21 of this year, the Ministry of Labour informed the residents of Stayner that the arena would be closed because of structural deficiencies in a building that is 38 years old. The mayor of Stayner recently met with representatives of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. He was informed that under the present policy the ministry would pay approximately one third of the cost of the construction of a new arena. The 2,800 residents of Stayner would then be required to shoulder the burden of two thirds of the cost, or about \$1 million.

Members of this House would agree this represents a tremendous financial burden for so few people. It is my understanding that in the past many municipalities received grants much in excess of one third the total cost when an arena was condemned. I urge the minister to provide at least 50 per cent funding to what is known as "the town of friendly people." An arena is the lifeblood of many rural communities and must be considered a necessity for the residents.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. Breagh: The regional municipality of Durham is increasingly concerned about the nuclear facilities there and about those proposed for Darlington. They are also concerned about the amount of public information available if some kind of disaster strikes. I would like to urge the government to proceed rather quickly to provide the region of Durham with that information and to provide the people who live in that area with more information about the nuclear facilities. I also urge that they be informed of the plans the government may have in the event an untoward accident should occur in that region.

2:12 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Elston: Last week the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) raised several issues concerning the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie. Specifically, he asked when our government was prepared to follow through on a commitment that is a year and a half old and was made by the previous government to provide funding for a new Barrie hospital.

He prefaced this question by referring to a Royal Victoria patient who he said had died in a hospital corridor because there was no room for her to die in dignity. I would like to present the facts. The patient was admitted to the hospital on April 14. On April 22, when her condition worsened, she was moved from the four-bed room she had been sharing to an alcove near the nursing station. That decision was made on the basis of the patient's condition. This location provided greater privacy and allowed closer monitoring of the patient by the hospital nursing staff. It also gave better access to family members.

I have been advised and assured by the staff at the Royal Victoria Hospital that every effort was made to preserve the patient's dignity and privacy.

I turn to the second issue raised by the opposition leader. He referred to an 18-month-old commitment which he said the previous government made to the people of Barrie and Simcoe county to build a new hospital. By my reckoning, this issue has outlasted five Conservative members in the Health portfolio, including the Leader of the Opposition himself.

The Leader of the Opposition made a commitment to the Barrie hospital during his tenure as

Minister of Health. He is reported to have promised that when planning reached the appropriate stage, ministry funds would be forthcoming for the new hospital.

It was his predecessor, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), who first made a ministry commitment to a new hospital on a new site, and it was the previous member for Kingston and the Islands, Mr. Norton, who signed the expropriation order for the land needed for the new hospital.

I am now reviewing a joint report by the Royal Victoria Hospital and Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in Orillia that has been approved by the Simcoe District Health Council. I have also just received and am studying the district health council's health needs and services study for all of Simcoe county. This government has an obligation to ensure that any planning decisions of this magnitude take into account the need for rationalizing health care facilities to avoid duplication of services.

I appreciate the co-operation received from the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and the Simcoe District Health Council in producing this joint report. I can tell the Leader of the Opposition today, that the government will make the appropriate decision on the basis of all the available information.

Mr. Andrewes: I would like to respond briefly to the statement of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). On page 1 of his statement, he indicates the patient in question was moved from the four-bed room she had been sharing to an alcove near the nursing station. This points clearly to the fact this patient was moved to the hallway where she died.

Our issue is not with the staff of the hospital. We recognize they did the best they could in the conditions prevalent in that hospital to provide the proper care for the patient and the proper circumstances in which that patient's life could leave her and her family could gain the privacy it wished to have. Unfortunately, this speaks to the horrendous situation that confronts the staff of that hospital.

The minister first received a report from the district health council in June, 1985. He received another in early 1986. Both urged him very strongly that the hospital's plans must go ahead as proposed immediately. We are told that as many as 17 patients wait in emergency for hospital beds—11 as of last week when the Leader of the Opposition raised this issue. The minister has yet to respond to the hospital board, which

approached him in November 1985, when he was on a visit to that community and while he visited that hospital. It is interesting that the whole issue of the Barrie hospital now becomes of interest to the Minister of Health. I urge him now to take the advice of the district health council to act expeditiously so that this situation of health care accessibility can be remedied.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I will comment very briefly on the Minister of Health's statement. As members of the Legislature, we must understand that problems such as the one described by the Leader of the Opposition last week are not uncommon in Ontario. The reason for these backlogs of patients in Ontario's health care system is that for many years we have had capital funding going into our hospital system that has been about 50 per cent or less than what was required and requested by the Ontario Hospital Association and the institutions across this province.

However, there is another aspect to this that begs to be dealt with by this and by previous governments. We have an unregulated rest home system; we have inappropriate or inadequate community support systems; we have people in nursing homes and chronic care beds who could cope at home if they had proper community supports. Because we do not have an integrated community support program, we have all these people backlogged in our very costly institutions. As a result, acute care beds are being occupied by nursing home, rest home and chronic care patients. Thus, we have these situations in Barrie, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Windsor and right across this province. People are not receiving the proper kind of care in acute care beds when they need it.

The solution to this problem is not to throw hundreds of millions of dollars into the capital allocations of our hospitals. The solution is to plan properly the capital allocations for our hospitals and to put a massive amount of money into community supports so that the elderly of this province can maintain their independence and dignity at home, where they want to stay and where we in the New Democratic Party believe they should be able to stay.

FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am pleased to advise the House that with the approval of the Ontario government and the governments of other provinces the government of Canada will be moving today to become a party to the United

Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

This action by the federal government, in concert with all the provincial governments, marks an important step in Canada's international commercial relations. The competitiveness of Canadian business in the international marketplace will be enhanced by this extension of Canada's participation in the now common commercial practice of settling disputes through arbitration.

Ontario has already taken steps to adjust its laws to comply with these new international obligations. Bill 98, introduced in the Legislature in January, provides the necessary mechanisms to effect this adjustment. I hope all members of the House will co-operate in ensuring its early passage so we can meet the 90-day deadline which Canada's accession will set for us.

On a related front, the government has under active consideration a model law prepared by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. Enactment of this model law on international commercial arbitration would mark a step beyond recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards. It would bring into force rules under which parties to commercial disputes may arbitrate them without undue delays by the courts.

The model law reflects the consensus of 56 major trading nations. It was developed under the auspices of the United Nations and has been under intensive study by all governments in Canada. If Ontario adopts the model law and Bill 98, we will have taken the necessary steps to establish Ontario as a potential site for international commercial arbitrations as well as to facilitate international trade by businesses in Ontario.

In concept with our study of the model law, I have decided to establish an Attorney General's advisory committee on an international commercial arbitration centre in Ontario. The committee, to be composed of distinguished experts in the field of commercial arbitration, will advise me on the feasibility of establishing an international commercial arbitration centre in Toronto. The committee will review the need for such a facility, together with its logistical and financial requirements. The committee may also be asked to consider whether such a centre could reasonably be extended to arbitrations other than commercial arbitrations and those involving international matters.

I will be naming the members of the committee shortly and will advise the House as soon as that is done.

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I wish to assure the House that my ministry is thoroughly investigating the two boating incidents prominently reported in the media in recent days.

I apologize if there are no copies of my statement; it was being prepared and should have been delivered at this moment.

Mr. McClellan: I think the minister had better wait.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Perhaps the House will give me permission to respond and issue the statement as soon as it is ready.

Mr. Speaker: Are the copies on their way?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: Yes.

Mr. Rae: Does the Leader of the Opposition have a copy?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: No, he would not have one yet.

Mr. Speaker: I hope the House will give permission to revert to statements.

Mr. Rae: Sure.

[Later]

Mr. Speaker: Is the Solicitor General prepared to make his statement? Is it the agreement of the House that we revert to statements by the ministry and responses?

Mr. Harris: Is this call to revert to statements by the ministry and responses?

Mr. Speaker: There is still some time left for responses.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I thank the House leaders for their indulgence in returning to statements by the ministry and responses.

My ministry is thoroughly investigating the two boating incidents prominently reported in the media in recent days. We share the grief and concern expressed by the families and friends of all those involved.

First, I want to deal with the Lake Huron incident of last fall and the ongoing debate concerning the length of the search and the procedures used. I understand the ultimate decision to call off that search lay with the federal authorities, who hold responsibilities for marine search and rescue on the Great Lakes. However, I am sure the details of that decision and the reasons for it can be part of the inquest I have ordered today into that fatality.

In regard to the current Lake Ontario incident, I am informed that the Metropolitan Toronto Police are assisting the Durham Regional Police Force in a search that is still ongoing. I had asked my officials to contact the federal authorities to see whether there is anything further they can do to assist. The Ontario Provincial Police stand ready to assist where possible.

Mr. Gillies: I am sure the Solicitor General and the House are aware that in incidents of this kind the responsibility for the search reverts to the OPP and municipal police forces after five days. We are very concerned that these searches be undertaken with all dispatch and thoroughness.

We heard media reports this morning about tremendous concern on the part of some family members and their feeling that perhaps everything that could be done was not being done. I heard incidents of families themselves renting planes and flying out over the lake to search. That is an understandable reaction on the part of anguished relatives, and it is a concern I am sure the Solicitor General will want to act on as thoroughly as possible.

Mr. Breaugh: It should be obvious to the minister now that there is a need to review the procedures. That is without question. We are left with the rather unusual circumstances where private individuals are now financing a search and rescue operation. Surely that is an untenable situation for this government. A review of the procedures is absolutely essential. At the very least, I anticipated a statement by the minister today that he would assume the cost of search and rescue operations immediately. It is confusing to see that he is acknowledging something is wrong, but not what is wrong or what he is going to do about it.

2:27 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, so we will understand the benchmark from which the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will be working tomorrow in his budget. The minister has complained many times that universities in Ontario have been woefully underfunded. If this is the case and the minister believes that, how can he explain the fact that last fall his government promised universities \$11 million less in capital than had been committed previously by the Conservative government?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The provision of an additional \$9.5 million for capital funding for universities in the university excellence fund was an increment that virtually doubled the regular capital allocations of the previous government of the estimates I heard. Similarly, the incremental capital allocations for colleges of \$6.5 million doubled the amount available to colleges. Far from reducing the amount that was available for capital, our government has increased it.

Mr. Grossman: Let us be specific, so the public will know whether the government increased it or reshuffled the money. I will wait till the minister turns to the page in his book. He will find it under B for Board of Industrial Leadership and Development.

Mr. Speaker: By way of supplementary.

Interjection.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Grossman: The member for Niagara Falls does not like it when we get to the facts.

The previous commitment for the current year, which was announced in 1985, was \$50 million in capital for universities. Recently, the minister made an announcement in regard to his new initiatives that will raise the province's capital support to \$39 million. The previous commitment was \$50 million. The minister's announcement on March 26, 1986, committed \$39 million. He may find it in his book. Can the minister explain the drop in \$11 million between the two funds?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: One of the difficulties a member of this House has when he moves from over here to the other side is that he does not have the same access to information that perhaps is available over here.

What the Leader of the Opposition is quoting are figures relative to new construction starts that were initiated in the context of that announcement. Those announcements, which I made on or around March 26, included a new building at Wilfrid Laurier University, a new building at the University of Ottawa, a new building at the faculty of law at the University of Toronto and substantial renovations to a building at Laurentian University of Sudbury. Those four projects are the first time that the regular capital allocations for my ministry have been sufficient to start substantial new projects on our campuses.

Mr. Grossman: The minister has confirmed that his announcement was for \$39 million. The only point we wish to make is that when he is bragging that the \$39 million is directly through the ministry's capital fund, what he neglects is

the fact that \$50 million had been previously committed through BILD for the very same kind of projects. He replaced the \$50-million BILD program for the same kind of works with a \$39-million ministry program and had the gall in March to stand up and brag about it.

The funding for operating grants for universities in the 1984-85 year was increased by 6.5 per cent in the last budget brought in by the previous government, whereas the first announcements for the minister's first year in office were for a four per cent increase. With the budget coming tomorrow, can the minister assure this House that he will at the very least succeed in getting the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to restore the transfers up to the 6.5 per cent level that the previous government had in place?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I now know why my friend is a lawyer and not an accountant—

Mr. Callahan: We also know why he is in opposition.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: —and why he is in opposition.

Let us deal first with the first part of his supplementary. He said it was \$50 million. The fact is that my announcement did not factor in any of the BILD projects, which had been approved, which were ongoing and all of which, save one, were confirmed by this government. They were incremental to the \$39 million the Leader of the Opposition mentioned. The actual expenditure of 1986-87 is far more than he is representing it to this House.

Let us go to the business of regular operating grants. The increase was 6.4 per cent in 1984-85. I can tell this House that in this year, under the October 24 budget of the Treasurer, the operating grants and the university excellence fund represented an increment of some eight per cent for colleges and universities. I think they ought to be the judge, and they say it was the first substantial move by a government in Ontario in 10 years.

Mr. Grossman: We will introduce the minister to his estimates book, which has all the figures in it, and he can prove how the grants did not go down two per cent.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mr. Grossman: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. In August of last year, the minister said, "Toxic chemicals leaking into the Niagara River from waste sites in New York state must be brought under immediate control." This weekend he announced the discovery of the highest levels of dioxin found anywhere in water from a sewer flowing into that

area that the landfill site is not a hazard to their health?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I hope our investigation will provide that kind of information for the honourable member and for the residents. As we look at some of the practices that were permitted in relation to landfill sites, not just in this jurisdiction but in various places, we have come to recognize the validity of placing them under environmental assessment when it is a greenfield site, for instance, of a landfill. What was permitted or what we as a society generally thought to be acceptable in the past for a landfill site we would agree today is not acceptable. That is what we are investigating, and I will provide that information for the member just as soon as possible.

ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

Mr. McLean: My question is for the Chairman of Management Board. On May 7, she mentioned that she had settled contract negotiations with about 23,500 civil servants in various centres throughout Ontario. What is she doing to settle the contract negotiations for those people employed as counsellors at the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, where they occupied the office of the administrator last week? That occupation was a protest linked directly with the tardiness of the negotiations on this contract.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: The negotiations for the four categories that have not been completed are under way at this time. I believe the group to which the member referred is among the institutional care workers. We are negotiating right now with the union.

It has been suggested that mediation would be of assistance, and we are looking at that as one of the options as we attempt for the first time in a number of years to reach settlements through negotiated and good collective bargaining with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

Mr. McLean: What is the minister doing regarding the settlement of a contract with workers at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: That question is related to the previous question. Let me give the member this information: There are nine categories within the bargaining unit of the Ontario public service. To date, we have reached agreement and have had ratification with five of the nine. Those five represent 23,500 employees. At this time, we are negotiating actively with the other four categories, and today I am cautiously optimistic.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUTS

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Education. His research and information branch recently tabled the records of high school drop-outs for the past five years. These records indicate that over that term, the increase in grade 9 drop-outs has been 15 per cent; grade 10 is stable; the grade 11 rate is up by 14.5 per cent; and the grade 12 rate is up by a whopping 20 per cent over those five years. This means that in the past year, almost 70,000 students left the high school system without diplomas or certificates.

Is the Minister of Education prepared to take this situation with the seriousness it deserves? What new programs is he prepared to bring forward? For example, is he prepared to create an emergency ministry working group?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member has asked the question.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have seen the data to which the member for Hamilton West makes reference and yes, I do take seriously the whole question of leaving school early. As a new government, we have addressed this issue with a number of specific initiatives, not the least of which was the dedication of \$13 million to a co-operative education and transition-to-employment fund. The government will continue to explore ways and means of making the high school educational experience relevant and excellent for all concerned.

Mr. Allen: Many of those initiatives are precisely the sorts of initiatives taken in the past that have not been effective in specifically addressing this problem. Is the minister prepared to create an emergency ministry working group to collaborate with boards of education and to set quite specific year-by-year targets for the reduction of those tragic figures, so we can get this situation in hand?

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the past year would indicate, I am not at all reluctant to strike working groups, some of which involve members of the opposition. This is a matter towards which we have directed our attention. If the honourable member and others in the official opposition, including my friend the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis), have specific and concrete proposals they would like me to entertain, I await them eagerly.

PETITIONS

WOMEN IN CRISIS (ALGOMA) INC.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition from the Sault.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and in particular the Honourable Monte Kwinter, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That a complete investigation of Women in Crisis (Algoma) Inc. be conducted and that a general meeting be called for the purpose of discussing this investigation."

I share the concerns of the 143 residents of Sault Ste. Marie and area who have signed this petition, and I trust the government will act immediately on this petition.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) leaves, I would like to note that on page 3 of the Orders and Notices paper, order 20 is second reading of Bill 78, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Rents charged for Rental Units in Residential Complexes. Earlier today, the minister said the bill was withdrawn—

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I do not like to interrupt my colleague, but I cannot hear a word he is saying and I am trying to follow. I wonder whether you can ask for order.

Mr. Speaker: Can I ask all members for their attention. The member for Nipissing on what point of order?

Mr. Harris: On the point of the Orders and Notices paper, Mr. Speaker: Today in the Legislature, the minister said Bill 78 was withdrawn. Order 20 for the business of the House on page 3, printed today with the date May 12, is second reading of Bill 78.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: That is the first time I have heard of a point of order on Orders and Notices. However, it is an interesting point. Perhaps the member could ask the minister personally, or that would make a good question during the question period at some time.

OBSTETRICAL SERVICES

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition signed by 518 concerned citizens living in the riding of Lake Nipigon. They are asking that obstetrical services in the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital be reinstated.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE TRAVEL

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on general government be authorized to adjourn to Quebec City and Montreal on May

22 and 23, 1986, for the purpose of its continuing consideration of Bill 75, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that notwithstanding any standing order, the House shall meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 1986, for a special sitting to hear an address by the Right Reverend Desmond Tutu, Bishop of Johannesburg. Following the remarks of Bishop Tutu, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

OLEOMARGARINE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the Oleomargarine Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This amendment to the Oleomargarine Act alters the description of the test used to determine the level of colour in oleomargarine. The amendment removes the requirement that the test results be "read under conditions substantially similar to those established by the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue." As the US standards are now obsolete, the existing section of the act is unenforceable. The amendment will provide for the renewal of enforcement of the Oleomargarine Act in a manner that will permit the objectives of the legislation to be achieved.

BRUCellosIS REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 15, An Act to repeal the Brucellosis Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This bill will repeal the Brucellosis Act which, I am happy to say, is no longer a relevant piece of legislation. Ontario was declared free of brucellosis last October, marking an end to a disease that once ravaged cattle herds and cost farmers millions of dollars in lost production. Using a program of vaccinations, testing and eradication, the federal and provincial governments in co-operation with farmers gradually brought the disease under control.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Breaugh moved first reading of Bill Pr16, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Breauth: Under present law, the public is not permitted to attend committee meetings of municipal councils or local boards. The present law also denies public access to reports made to the committees and to certain other documents. The amendment opens up committee meetings to the public and provides access to reports and other records subject to specific confidentiality exemptions. The amendment also imposes an obligation on councils to inform members of the public of their rights under the act.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, in calling the second order, I would like to inform you and the clerks at the table that there is an agreement among the three parties that the time remaining between now and the calling of the motion at 6:15 p.m. be divided evenly among the three parties.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) will be winding up for the government, so there will be no difficulty in his using the time allocated. However, I understand the Conservatives may be contemplating dividing their time among two speakers, which is acceptable to us. If so, it is expected that the first speaker following the calling of the order will be a Conservative, followed by a New Democratic Party member, then a Conservative speaker and then the *pièce de résistance*.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to the complicated suggestion made by the government House leader?

Agreed to.

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Ashe: I appreciate the opportunity to participate on the closing day of the throne speech debate based on the government's declared initiatives a couple of weeks ago.

Last week I was away on other matters and I was able to get caught up on a little bit of reading. One of the novels in which I became very involved is entitled *First Among Equals* by Jeffrey Archer. I am sure you have read it, Mr. Speaker. That particular publication has to do with four members of Parliament in Britain, two in the Labour Party and two in the Conservative Party, and how they grew in politics, their ups

and downs and the various things that went wrong in and out of government.

One of the quotes I would like to read is as follows, "Some of the most memorable speeches delivered in the House"—referring to the British House of Commons, but I really see no difference here—"have lasted eight or nine minutes; some of the worst, over 30." I do not suggest I am in the category of the eight-minute or nine-minute ones, but I hope I will not be anywhere near or over 30 minutes. For those who intend to speak for more than 30 minutes, they have that to keep in the backs of their minds. It is most appropriate.

3:40 p.m.

The other thing I was able to do last week with the little extra time was to think more deeply about the government's speech from the throne brought down a couple of weeks ago. I really thought about it, pondered over it and gave it some very serious thought. One of the things the speech did not do was to excite me any more than it did on the day it was given. It did not give me any more insight on any new programs and initiatives that the government had in the back of its mind.

I refer back to the opening remarks, after the traditional mover and seconder spoke on behalf of the government, the excellent remarks of our leader when he responded to the remarks of the mover and seconder on the actual speech itself. He went over page and verse, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the fact that virtually every program and announcement within that throne speech came from something in the past. It came usually from something the previous government had done, a program that was already announced, a program where initiatives had already been taken or something that was already well on the way.

The other thing that really bothered me was that I felt a little bad for the members opposite when I looked back. I even brought it with me and re-read that speech from the throne. I thought the members of the government party who had been in this Legislature for some period of years in actual fact, after listening to that throne speech and the fact that it contained so little that was of new ideas, must have felt sincerely embarrassed.

I really felt for them, but I really felt worse when I thought about the new members of the governing party who came in here full of vim, vigour and enthusiasm some very short time ago—it was less than a year ago when they actually took their seats—when they thought: "Boy, we are really part of a new team. We heard

so much from our leader and we heard so much from the party of all the great new ideas we have." What did they hear? They heard a throne speech and then they heard it tied back into programs that were not new whatsoever. At the very least, they must feel very disillusioned, and I feel for them. They thought it would be full of new ideas.

Again, I am not going to take the time to review point by point, page by page, all of those programs that were introduced in other forms, other names and other colours by the previous government, in high-tech industry, trade initiatives and so on, but I do want to refer to one that was not specifically referred to before and to indicate the cynicism contained within that throne speech.

I refer specifically to page 17, and I quote, "My government will implement a policy to direct and co-ordinate management of its property holdings to aggressively support our economic and social objectives, sell surplus lands, and create new opportunities for ventures with the private sector."

That was in the address of His Honour on April 22, 1986. Let me refer back to the Sunday Sun of February 25, 1986, some couple of months before the throne speech. The headline is "New Deal on Land Sales." Let me read a little bit out of it; I will not bore you with it all, Mr. Speaker, because there is no doubt that by the time I am finished you will find it is very repetitive. It said, referring to the Minister of Government Services and Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan):

"She also announced a new land management and disposal strategy that she said will maximize the government's return on its property investments and provide better management of its real estate interests. In a major departure from past practice, the government will begin using brokers and agents to inform potential buyers of property and to negotiate and package transactions."

Two days after the throne speech, once again there was a little more meat put on the bones in the same minister's address to the Society of Industrial Realtors, where she once again announced that program. That program was initiated, announced and put into effect back in 1984 in my capacity as Minister of Government Services. Since the new government came into being, we have had that program—which is already at least two years old—announced three times as being a new initiative.

Again, I just add this to the list of page after page, verse after verse, paragraph after paragraph, where the ideas and the initiatives that are announced as being new and grandiose are really not new at all.

One of the other things I thought might have been included in the throne speech was a leadup to the budget that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will present tomorrow. I thought there might be some indication that, now that the government has been around for approaching a year, it might try to put its financial house in order; it might try to shed what it has been carrying around in the last eight, nine or 10 months in the way of extra expense, extra overhead, extra overload—in other words, fiscal responsibility. Did it give any indication of that in the throne speech? Frankly, no it did not. This, in my view, does not augur well for what we are going to hear from the Treasurer tomorrow.

What have they done over there? I know they will say, "We have fewer ministers than the former government had." That is true. The reason, of course, is that they did not have enough members to have as many ministers, so they had to cut down.

Does that really mean the cost of operation in a political sense is less? No, it does not. It is true there are fewer ministers, but let me assure members that in virtually every one of those ministers' offices—I will not say every one—there are more staff than there were before, if we could ever get the total, honest facts out of the various ministries.

I appreciate that people come and go pretty regularly in some of the ministers' offices, so it is pretty hard to know on any given day how many are there. I see the Chairman of Management Board and Minister of Government Services nodding her head. I know hers is one of the ones where that happens quite regularly.

In total, they have more staff. Not only do they have a larger staff in total numbers, but they have also increased their salaries by considerable sums. Were these salaries earned by five, eight or 10 years of service to a particular minister or ministry, by experience related to those jobs? No, it was not that way. After the government got them there, it said: "We will go up to Ottawa to see how much they pay them there. We will raise their salaries by \$10,000 to \$15,000 and nobody will worry about it." The taxpayer worries about it.

Did they at all cut down on some of the overhead? I can remember some very eloquent speeches over the years, particularly from the

Treasurer—and I could name others over there—who used to get up regularly and ask: “Does anybody across there not have an extra job? Are they all parliamentary assistants or what have you?” Is there anybody in that body now who is not a parliamentary assistant? Are there any fewer parliamentary assistants than there were before?

I can also remember many of the members, and particularly the Treasurer and Minister of Revenue, who used to dig the government of the day time after time by making cute remarks such as, “When the minister drove up in his big chauffeur-driven limousine, did he do this and did he do that?” Funny. I do not see any fewer cars; I do not see any fewer drivers. I got along without a \$5,000 telephone in my car, but my successor cannot—an additional \$5,000 just like that on the backs of the taxpayers. “A telephone in every trunk” is how they refer to them over there now. That, of course, is to keep in touch to see whether there are any new fund-raising dinners coming up and whether people have anted up their grant. Is there anybody over there who does not have an extra job? I suggest, percentagewise, there were fewer in the previous administration than there are now who were involved in the additional revenues that are available.

3:50 p.m.

I was thinking again of these new members. They were undoubtedly disappointed and disillusioned when they heard the speech, which they had thought was all new and then found out it was not. However, they thought: “Oh, well, we are the government. When we speak, people listen. When we speak, industry listens.”

We had a good example a couple of weeks ago of that not quite working. I can remember the Premier (Mr. Peterson) saying in some musings one day: “I am concerned about the gouging in the gasoline prices to the consumers today, so I am going to dispatch my Minister of Energy out west to have some conversations to tell them to lower it. I am going to put out my Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to talk to the local oil companies here. We will take care of that.”

Sure, they listened. The price of gasoline went up by 2.5 cents a litre the very next day. It is certain that when a Liberal government member speaks, industry listens—2.5 cents higher per litre the day after. Is that the kind of rapport there is? I do not know. It was a joke in any event; it was a joke when they talked about going to the oil companies.

Looking back on what has happened, in the case of the gasoline taxes we are now paying, we all know that if the initiatives and the previous programs of this party were still in effect, gas prices would be somewhere in the order of 2.5 cents per litre less just in taxation. Was the New Democratic Party concerned about that extra impact on the taxpayers? No, not at all. Were the government members concerned about that? Not at all. They said, “We are going to freeze gasoline prices at 8.8 cents”—subsequently 8.3 cents—“and everybody will be a winner.” We all know 8.3 cents would now be about 5.9 cents or six cents under the previous government’s tax policy.

What else did I find in the speech from the throne? It did have something that was the government’s own, I must say. It reiterated its, I think sad, policy about beer and wine in the corner stores. Wherever we sit in this Legislature, we all know the majority of our constituents are opposed to it, generally in the order of three to one, now that they have had time to think through and ponder the pros and cons of that particular ill-thought-out and ill-founded initiative. However, it was in there again because they had to say something was their own.

I have to give compliments, though, where compliments are due. Many of the previous initiatives of this government that are being carried forward are excellent, for example, the expansion of trade opportunities in the Pacific Rim. There is no doubt about that at all. They worked before, there is a great market to build up, and they will work again.

The introduction of a new Order of Ontario is very commendable. In my mind, it is one of the high priorities that came out of that speech from the throne. It was not all negative.

The long and the short of it is that it frustrated me. We have heard the references back and forth, “It was so dull,” and “It was your programs.” When one has been involved in coming up with programs, when one has been making them work and can see them working and then one is sitting on the end of one’s chair, knowing one is going to have to jump with enthusiasm when one hears all these new, great initiatives from this new, exuberant government, and one hears the same things one knows one had last year, the year before and the year before, it is no wonder we virtually all fell asleep.

In summary, members have heard it before. I have changed the last line slightly from references made before. There is no doubt, to put it in a very small nutshell, the speech from the throne

was surely something old, it was not very new, it was a great deal borrowed and most of what was borrowed was blue.

Mr. Laughren: It is a privilege for me to wind up this debate on behalf of my caucus. It is an event that all Ontario has been waiting for breathlessly for the last couple of weeks, and I am here to deliver it to them.

We all know the speech from the throne has two basic purposes. It is to lay out the priorities of the government for the session that follows and to provide a setting or perhaps even a warning for the budget that will be brought in the day following the vote on the speech from the throne. It is in this spirit that I respond for my caucus and my party.

This is an opportunity to compare our priorities, our philosophies and, if I dare say it, to compare our ideologies. In his response to the speech from the throne, my leader the member for York South (Mr. Rae) dealt in some detail with three major issues: competitiveness, education and health care. I will not repeat his speech; I will simply recommend it to other members as productive reading.

The last year has been a truly fascinating one for me. I have been an elected member for almost 15 years, but the last year has been by far the most fascinating. In itself, the end of a Tory dynasty held a lot of fascination for me as well, the rather heady realization that we were instrumental in ending that era. The political nervousness we experienced in entering into an accord which put us all into uncharted waters helped to make it a fascinating year.

The selection and negotiation of the specific items that we insisted went into the accord between the Liberals and New Democratic Party made it fascinating, also the fight to ensure the issues agreed upon in the accord were honoured, all the time guaranteeing a couple of years of political stability. I say "political stability," not because I think elections mean instability, but rather because a two-year period will give us an opportunity actually to implement the policies and issues put into the accord.

Now, a year later, we feel confident we did the right thing. Progress is being made, albeit with little dispatch or conviction by the government on the issues in the accord. At least the important issues that were not on the political agenda before are now on it. Those issues would never have been on it with the previous government, and even with this government they would not be on it as early as this had it not been for the accord we signed.

We are proud of the role we have played by demanding particular items in the accord. I am thinking of our demands that pay equity for women be part of the accord; that extra billing be banned; and that first-contract legislation be passed in order to prevent those nasty first-contract disputes and lockouts. An independent forestry audit is being done. Equal funding for our two public school systems is at least partway through the process. We also demanded that gas price differentials in northern Ontario be investigated, that rent increases be limited to four per cent; and that our system of workers' compensation be reformed.

These are not radical issues. They do not threaten to stand Ontario's cherished free enterprise system on its head. However, they are measures that are designed to increase fairness and equity in our society. I suspect we all agree, but we disagree on the means to achieve the goals of fairness and equity.

On Friday, May 9, my leader, and our Treasury critic, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), set out proposals in A Fair Future for Ontario that dealt in part with our grossly unfair tax system. Our tax proposals include the elimination of Ontario income tax and premiums for the Ontario health insurance plan for individuals and families below the poverty line. We propose the closing of corporation tax loopholes and a new provision that will require corporations to pay at least 50 per cent of the applicable tax rate.

We are giving some teeth to the oft-stated unhappiness of the Treasurer with Michael Wilson's virtual elimination of tax on capital gains by proposing the reintroduction of succession duties on the estates of the wealthy. We also are calling for the immediate enactment of a minimum tax on high income-earners to implement without delay the 1984 Mulroney election promise. Other proposals for a fair Ontario touch on retraining, pension reform and job creation.

4 p.m.

We are proposing a province-wide work futures fund to finance lifetime learning and retraining. Lifetime learning must become a reality for average Ontarians if our future is to be fair. Pension reform is at least a quarter of a century overdue. While moving to provide universal coverage and improved and indexed benefits, we must act to provide decent early retirement alternatives so that people who want to retire before the so-called normal age of retirement can do so. Too many people who want

to retire early today cannot because of the inadequacy of our pension plans.

New Democrats are calling for a generously funded program to encourage permanent jobs for young people and for older workers. The tax credit we propose is strictly targeted. The only corporate beneficiaries of this program would be those who create long-term jobs. We also propose a targeted program of assistance to help small businesses get started and grow. We believe such initiatives must be aimed at those who will benefit most and, moreover, ought to be directed at specific job creation activities.

Governments can no longer afford to take a "something-for-nothing" approach by designing assistance programs under which benefits are not dependent on job creation performance. We propose a refundable, small business employment creation tax credit to replace the tax holiday for newly incorporated small business firms. This credit would apply to new companies and to those up to five years old.

For new small businesses, a \$2,000-credit would be given for every third employee hired, and for established companies a \$2,000-credit would be given for every additional job created. These credits would be available after the new jobs had been filled for a period of one year.

The savings from the elimination of the small business tax holiday are estimated at \$45 million, while the cost of the small business employment creation tax credit is estimated at \$100 million. The net cost, therefore, would be \$55 million. This measure is estimated to produce 50,000 new long-term employment opportunities. I stress these are long-term employment opportunities.

Some argue our economy cannot remain competitive if we impose too many regulations and restrictions on the private sector. We are told that investment dollars will flow elsewhere if we intervene too much in the marketplace. We are warned that our brightest and best doctors will leave Ontario if we ban extra billing, that the bill for pay equity in the private sector will be astronomical and will have a negative effect on our competitiveness. We are warned that Workers' Compensation Board costs are out of control and putting some businesses out of business. We are being told rent controls are the cause of a lack of rental accommodation. The lament goes on, and I suppose it always will. In the end, we must make judgements based on our own political ideologies and personal convictions.

I know a couple of things for certain. Right now, we are experiencing profound economic

changes in this country and elsewhere. As a provincial jurisdiction, we can either be willing, passive recipients of those changes or we can attempt to influence the way they shape our lives and the lives of succeeding generations.

I want to be associated with a political party that attempts to sculpture those changes, and I want to be associated with movements outside the political process that have similar aspirations—movements such as the labour movement, the women's movement, Project Ploughshares and Amnesty International. All of us know new technologies are causing changes at a rate faster than our apparent ability to control those changes or anticipate their effect on ordinary people. In Ontario, we must decide, and soon, that as technological change surges in upon us, so will we change some of our old attitudes.

At present, a frightening shift is occurring in the distribution of wealth and power in our society. The strata are becoming increasingly easier to identify. At the bottom end of the income scale are the poor and the powerless. The middle-income group is increasingly becoming a frightened strata and the top an increasingly smaller and powerful élite. It should come as no surprise to members that since the Second World War there has been absolutely no redistribution of income in our society. Back in the early 1950s, the bottom 20 per cent of Canadian households received four per cent of the national income while the top 20 per cent received 42 per cent, 10 times as much.

Those percentages have barely changed since the Second World War ended. I point this out because, despite the complaints of the élite in our province, all that has happened is that the poor have retained their miserable share. They retained that share only because governments intervened to make sure it happened. If left to the marketplace, Statistics Canada estimates the bottom 20 per cent of families would receive less than one per cent of the national income. Now they receive four per cent. So much for Reaganomics, supply-side economics and that despicable trickle-down theory.

About a week ago, I was reading some United States material and thinking about the poor in that country. I interrupted my serious reading to skim the *Globe and Mail*. A Report on Business headline read, "Executive Pay Cheques Jump 22.5 Per Cent." That was the yearly jump. When I went through the numbers of what some executives of Canadian corporations earn, it gave me pause for thought and it should give us all pause for thought.

Some examples include: David Culver, president of Alcan Aluminum, \$702,000 a year; K. S. Barclay, chairman of AMCA International, \$842,000 a year; A. J. de Grandpré, chairman of Bell Canada Enterprises, \$882,000 a year; Arden Haynes, chairman of Imperial Oil Ltd., \$588,000; C. F. Baird, chairman of Inco Ltd., \$819,000 a year; Frank Stronach, chairman of Magna International, \$1.85 million per year.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: I wonder whether Sinc Stevens has read this.

E. B. Fitzgerald, chairman of Northern Telecom Ltd., \$1.05 million per year; G. R. Albino, chairman of Rio Algom, \$1.04 million per year; Edgar Bronfman, chairman of Seagram, \$1.4 million a year; Charles Bronfman, \$ vice-chairman, \$820,000; and Philip Beekman, president of Seagram, \$1.05 million per year. I could go on, but the point has been made.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: How much does the president of Massey-Ferguson make? Can the member read that?

Mr. Laughren: Yes. Massey-Ferguson is on the list too. Victor Rice, Massey-Ferguson, earns \$676,000, which is more than the Treasurer earns. Is it proper that the president of Massey-Ferguson should earn more than the Treasurer? Somehow it does not seem right, given all the Treasurer has done for Massey-Ferguson.

When those salaries are combined with the incredible series of corporate takeovers and mergers in the past couple of years, we get a picture of a society controlled by an extremely small and wealthy élite. We must decide whether we want a society that consists of the powerless, the frightened and a small élite or whether we want to build a society that shares important decision-making, production priorities and income more fairly. Surely it is time. Surely we have enough confidence in ourselves to change the way in which we view the work place. It is not appropriate for the corporate élite to make almost all the important decisions and for an elected élite to make the rest of them. We must begin the process of involving people in important decisions.

4:10 p.m.

I was reading some material by Michael Harrington, perhaps most widely known as author of *The Other America*—I believe it is yet unpublished. He writes the following in talking about changes and what is happening to society and how these changes will be imposed upon us:

"So the issue posed to this generation is not whether there will be a worldwide transformation of the conditions of life; the transformation is already under way. What is to be decided is whether that transformation will control or even annihilate men and women or whether they will control it. It is preposterous to think that the invisible hand of the market will miraculously shape the intricate and global trends in a truly human fashion. It is equally absurd to think that an omniscient élite, whether it is a vanguard party or a democratic technocracy, can create freedom behind the backs of the people." Michael Harrington says it very well.

I am glad the Treasurer is here at this moment. There are predictions that Ontario will be awash in money this year as its revenues will be higher because of a booming economy.

We in this party know how many demands there are on an unlimited supply of funds, even if the revenues are higher than anticipated. We know as well that a proper measure of a government is not so much how much money it can raise, but how it spends the money it does raise. There is undoubtedly an obligation on government to manage its affairs so as to maximize revenues in as equitable a way as possible.

In Ontario, ever since the post-war economic boom, we have had a government that treated the economy as a spectator sport. The Tories were always on the sidelines either as cheerleaders or simply as spectators cheering for the home side. Admittedly, the home side was Ontario. We have paid a price for that passive role by government. There are enormous holes in our industrial fabric. We import enormous quantities of manufactured goods which we could be producing here for a strong domestic market as well as for export markets.

We still undervalue our natural resources by shipping out unprocessed minerals and by failing to add more value to our wood products. This government cannot simply repair those holes in our industrial fabric by setting hastily prepared priorities or creating crown corporations to produce a wide variety of manufactured goods. It is not that simple. This government can, however, determine to play a real leadership role. This government can at least decide that when the private sector leaves gaping holes in sectors where we have a strong domestic market, sectors such as machinery and electrical products, then the public sector has an obligation to act.

area that the landfill site is not a hazard to their health?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I hope our investigation will provide that kind of information for the honourable member and for the residents. As we look at some of the practices that were permitted in relation to landfill sites, not just in this jurisdiction but in various places, we have come to recognize the validity of placing them under environmental assessment when it is a greenfield site, for instance, of a landfill. What was permitted or what we as a society generally thought to be acceptable in the past for a landfill site we would agree today is not acceptable. That is what we are investigating, and I will provide that information for the member just as soon as possible.

ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

Mr. McLean: My question is for the Chairman of Management Board. On May 7, she mentioned that she had settled contract negotiations with about 23,500 civil servants in various centres throughout Ontario. What is she doing to settle the contract negotiations for those people employed as counsellors at the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, where they occupied the office of the administrator last week? That occupation was a protest linked directly with the tardiness of the negotiations on this contract.

Hon. Ms. Caplan: The negotiations for the four categories that have not been completed are under way at this time. I believe the group to which the member referred is among the institutional care workers. We are negotiating right now with the union.

It has been suggested that mediation would be of assistance, and we are looking at that as one of the options as we attempt for the first time in a number of years to reach settlements through negotiated and good collective bargaining with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

Mr. McLean: What is the minister doing regarding the settlement of a contract with workers at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: That question is related to the previous question. Let me give the member this information: There are nine categories within the bargaining unit of the Ontario public service. To date, we have reached agreement and have had ratification with five of the nine. Those five represent 23,500 employees. At this time, we are negotiating actively with the other four categories, and today I am cautiously optimistic.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUTS

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Education. His research and information branch recently tabled the records of high school drop-outs for the past five years. These records indicate that over that term, the increase in grade 9 drop-outs has been 15 per cent; grade 10 is stable; the grade 11 rate is up by 14.5 per cent; and the grade 12 rate is up by a whopping 20 per cent over those five years. This means that in the past year, almost 70,000 students left the high school system without diplomas or certificates.

Is the Minister of Education prepared to take this situation with the seriousness it deserves? What new programs is he prepared to bring forward? For example, is he prepared to create an emergency ministry working group?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member has asked the question.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have seen the data to which the member for Hamilton West makes reference and yes, I do take seriously the whole question of leaving school early. As a new government, we have addressed this issue with a number of specific initiatives, not the least of which was the dedication of \$13 million to a co-operative education and transition-to-employment fund. The government will continue to explore ways and means of making the high school educational experience relevant and excellent for all concerned.

Mr. Allen: Many of those initiatives are precisely the sorts of initiatives taken in the past that have not been effective in specifically addressing this problem. Is the minister prepared to create an emergency ministry working group to collaborate with boards of education and to set quite specific year-by-year targets for the reduction of those tragic figures, so we can get this situation in hand?

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the past year would indicate, I am not at all reluctant to strike working groups, some of which involve members of the opposition. This is a matter towards which we have directed our attention. If the honourable member and others in the official opposition, including my friend the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis), have specific and concrete proposals they would like me to entertain, I await them eagerly.

PETITIONS

WOMEN IN CRISIS (ALGOMA) INC.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition from the Sault.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and in particular the Honourable Monte Kwinter, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That a complete investigation of Women in Crisis (Algoma) Inc. be conducted and that a general meeting be called for the purpose of discussing this investigation."

I share the concerns of the 143 residents of Sault Ste. Marie and area who have signed this petition, and I trust the government will act immediately on this petition.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) leaves, I would like to note that on page 3 of the Orders and Notices paper, order 20 is second reading of Bill 78, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Rents charged for Rental Units in Residential Complexes. Earlier today, the minister said the bill was withdrawn—

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I do not like to interrupt my colleague, but I cannot hear a word he is saying and I am trying to follow. I wonder whether you can ask for order.

Mr. Speaker: Can I ask all members for their attention. The member for Nipissing on what point of order?

Mr. Harris: On the point of the Orders and Notices paper, Mr. Speaker: Today in the Legislature, the minister said Bill 78 was withdrawn. Order 20 for the business of the House on page 3, printed today with the date May 12, is second reading of Bill 78.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: That is the first time I have heard of a point of order on Orders and Notices. However, it is an interesting point. Perhaps the member could ask the minister personally, or that would make a good question during the question period at some time.

OBSTETRICAL SERVICES

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition signed by 518 concerned citizens living in the riding of Lake Nipigon. They are asking that obstetrical services in the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital be reinstated.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE TRAVEL

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the standing committee on general government be authorized to adjourn to Quebec City and Montreal on May

22 and 23, 1986, for the purpose of its continuing consideration of Bill 75, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that notwithstanding any standing order, the House shall meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 1986, for a special sitting to hear an address by the Right Reverend Desmond Tutu, Bishop of Johannesburg. Following the remarks of Bishop Tutu, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

OLEOMARGARINE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the Oleomargarine Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This amendment to the Oleomargarine Act alters the description of the test used to determine the level of colour in oleomargarine. The amendment removes the requirement that the test results be "read under conditions substantially similar to those established by the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue." As the US standards are now obsolete, the existing section of the act is unenforceable. The amendment will provide for the renewal of enforcement of the Oleomargarine Act in a manner that will permit the objectives of the legislation to be achieved.

BRUCellosIS REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 15, An Act to repeal the Brucellosis Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This bill will repeal the Brucellosis Act which, I am happy to say, is no longer a relevant piece of legislation. Ontario was declared free of brucellosis last October, marking an end to a disease that once ravaged cattle herds and cost farmers millions of dollars in lost production. Using a program of vaccinations, testing and eradication, the federal and provincial governments in co-operation with farmers gradually brought the disease under control.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Breaugh moved first reading of Bill Pr16, An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Breagh: Under present law, the public is not permitted to attend committee meetings of municipal councils or local boards. The present law also denies public access to reports made to the committees and to certain other documents. The amendment opens up committee meetings to the public and provides access to reports and other records subject to specific confidentiality exemptions. The amendment also imposes an obligation on councils to inform members of the public of their rights under the act.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, in calling the second order, I would like to inform you and the clerks at the table that there is an agreement among the three parties that the time remaining between now and the calling of the motion at 6:15 p.m. be divided evenly among the three parties.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) will be winding up for the government, so there will be no difficulty in his using the time allocated. However, I understand the Conservatives may be contemplating dividing their time among two speakers, which is acceptable to us. If so, it is expected that the first speaker following the calling of the order will be a Conservative, followed by a New Democratic Party member, then a Conservative speaker and then the *pièce de résistance*.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to the complicated suggestion made by the government House leader?

Agreed to.

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Ashe: I appreciate the opportunity to participate on the closing day of the throne speech debate based on the government's declared initiatives a couple of weeks ago.

Last week I was away on other matters and I was able to get caught up on a little bit of reading. One of the novels in which I became very involved is entitled *First Among Equals* by Jeffrey Archer. I am sure you have read it, Mr. Speaker. That particular publication has to do with four members of Parliament in Britain, two in the Labour Party and two in the Conservative Party, and how they grew in politics, their ups

and downs and the various things that went wrong in and out of government.

One of the quotes I would like to read is as follows, "Some of the most memorable speeches delivered in the House"—referring to the British House of Commons, but I really see no difference here—"have lasted eight or nine minutes; some of the worst, over 30." I do not suggest I am in the category of the eight-minute or nine-minute ones, but I hope I will not be anywhere near or over 30 minutes. For those who intend to speak for more than 30 minutes, they have that to keep in the backs of their minds. It is most appropriate.

3:40 p.m.

The other thing I was able to do last week with the little extra time was to think more deeply about the government's speech from the throne brought down a couple of weeks ago. I really thought about it, pondered over it and gave it some very serious thought. One of the things the speech did not do was to excite me any more than it did on the day it was given. It did not give me any more insight on any new programs and initiatives that the government had in the back of its mind.

I refer back to the opening remarks, after the traditional mover and seconder spoke on behalf of the government, the excellent remarks of our leader when he responded to the remarks of the mover and seconder on the actual speech itself. He went over page and verse, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the fact that virtually every program and announcement within that throne speech came from something in the past. It came usually from something the previous government had done, a program that was already announced, a program where initiatives had already been taken or something that was already well on the way.

The other thing that really bothered me was that I felt a little bad for the members opposite when I looked back. I even brought it with me and re-read that speech from the throne. I thought the members of the government party who had been in this Legislature for some period of years in actual fact, after listening to that throne speech and the fact that it contained so little that was of new ideas, must have felt sincerely embarrassed.

I really felt for them, but I really felt worse when I thought about the new members of the governing party who came in here full of vim, vigour and enthusiasm some very short time ago—it was less than a year ago when they actually took their seats—when they thought: "Boy, we are really part of a new team. We heard

so much from our leader and we heard so much from the party of all the great new ideas we have." What did they hear? They heard a throne speech and then they heard it tied back into programs that were not new whatsoever. At the very least, they must feel very disillusioned, and I feel for them. They thought it would be full of new ideas.

Again, I am not going to take the time to review point by point, page by page, all of those programs that were introduced in other forms, other names and other colours by the previous government, in high-tech industry, trade initiatives and so on, but I do want to refer to one that was not specifically referred to before and to indicate the cynicism contained within that throne speech.

I refer specifically to page 17, and I quote, "My government will implement a policy to direct and co-ordinate management of its property holdings to aggressively support our economic and social objectives, sell surplus lands, and create new opportunities for ventures with the private sector."

That was in the address of His Honour on April 22, 1986. Let me refer back to the Sunday Sun of February 25, 1986, some couple of months before the throne speech. The headline is "New Deal on Land Sales." Let me read a little bit out of it; I will not bore you with it all, Mr. Speaker, because there is no doubt that by the time I am finished you will find it is very repetitive. It said, referring to the Minister of Government Services and Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan):

"She also announced a new land management and disposal strategy that she said will maximize the government's return on its property investments and provide better management of its real estate interests. In a major departure from past practice, the government will begin using brokers and agents to inform potential buyers of property and to negotiate and package transactions."

Two days after the throne speech, once again there was a little more meat put on the bones in the same minister's address to the Society of Industrial Realtors, where she once again announced that program. That program was initiated, announced and put into effect back in 1984 in my capacity as Minister of Government Services. Since the new government came into being, we have had that program—which is already at least two years old—announced three times as being a new initiative.

Again, I just add this to the list of page after page, verse after verse, paragraph after paragraph, where the ideas and the initiatives that are announced as being new and grandiose are really not new at all.

One of the other things I thought might have been included in the throne speech was a leadup to the budget that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will present tomorrow. I thought there might be some indication that, now that the government has been around for approaching a year, it might try to put its financial house in order; it might try to shed what it has been carrying around in the last eight, nine or 10 months in the way of extra expense, extra overhead, extra overload—in other words, fiscal responsibility. Did it give any indication of that in the throne speech? Frankly, no it did not. This, in my view, does not augur well for what we are going to hear from the Treasurer tomorrow.

What have they done over there? I know they will say, "We have fewer ministers than the former government had." That is true. The reason, of course, is that they did not have enough members to have as many ministers, so they had to cut down.

Does that really mean the cost of operation in a political sense is less? No, it does not. It is true there are fewer ministers, but let me assure members that in virtually every one of those ministers' offices—I will not say every one—there are more staff than there were before, if we could ever get the total, honest facts out of the various ministries.

I appreciate that people come and go pretty regularly in some of the ministers' offices, so it is pretty hard to know on any given day how many are there. I see the Chairman of Management Board and Minister of Government Services nodding her head. I know hers is one of the ones where that happens quite regularly.

In total, they have more staff. Not only do they have a larger staff in total numbers, but they have also increased their salaries by considerable sums. Were these salaries earned by five, eight or 10 years of service to a particular minister or ministry, by experience related to those jobs? No, it was not that way. After the government got them there, it said: "We will go up to Ottawa to see how much they pay them there. We will raise their salaries by \$10,000 to \$15,000 and nobody will worry about it." The taxpayer worries about it.

Did they at all cut down on some of the overhead? I can remember some very eloquent speeches over the years, particularly from the

Treasurer—and I could name others over there—who used to get up regularly and ask: “Does anybody across there not have an extra job? Are they all parliamentary assistants or what have you?” Is there anybody in that body now who is not a parliamentary assistant? Are there any fewer parliamentary assistants than there were before?

I can also remember many of the members, and particularly the Treasurer and Minister of Revenue, who used to dig the government of the day time after time by making cute remarks such as, “When the minister drove up in his big chauffeur-driven limousine, did he do this and did he do that?” Funny. I do not see any fewer cars; I do not see any fewer drivers. I got along without a \$5,000 telephone in my car, but my successor cannot—an additional \$5,000 just like that on the backs of the taxpayers. “A telephone in every trunk” is how they refer to them over there now. That, of course, is to keep in touch to see whether there are any new fund-raising dinners coming up and whether people have anted up their grant. Is there anybody over there who does not have an extra job? I suggest, percentage-wise, there were fewer in the previous administration than there are now who were involved in the additional revenues that are available.

3:50 p.m.

I was thinking again of these new members. They were undoubtedly disappointed and disillusioned when they heard the speech, which they had thought was all new and then found out it was not. However, they thought: “Oh, well, we are the government. When we speak, people listen. When we speak, industry listens.”

We had a good example a couple of weeks ago of that not quite working. I can remember the Premier (Mr. Peterson) saying in some musings one day: “I am concerned about the gouging in the gasoline prices to the consumers today, so I am going to dispatch my Minister of Energy out west to have some conversations to tell them to lower it. I am going to put out my Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to talk to the local oil companies here. We will take care of that.”

Sure, they listened. The price of gasoline went up by 2.5 cents a litre the very next day. It is certain that when a Liberal government member speaks, industry listens—2.5 cents higher per litre the day after. Is that the kind of rapport there is? I do not know. It was a joke in any event; it was a joke when they talked about going to the oil companies.

Looking back on what has happened, in the case of the gasoline taxes we are now paying, we all know that if the initiatives and the previous programs of this party were still in effect, gas prices would be somewhere in the order of 2.5 cents per litre less just in taxation. Was the New Democratic Party concerned about that extra impact on the taxpayers? No, not at all. Were the government members concerned about that? Not at all. They said, “We are going to freeze gasoline prices at 8.8 cents”—subsequently 8.3 cents—“and everybody will be a winner.” We all know 8.3 cents would now be about 5.9 cents or six cents under the previous government’s tax policy.

What else did I find in the speech from the throne? It did have something that was the government’s own, I must say. It reiterated its, I think sad, policy about beer and wine in the corner stores. Wherever we sit in this Legislature, we all know the majority of our constituents are opposed to it, generally in the order of three to one, now that they have had time to think through and ponder the pros and cons of that particular ill-thought-out and ill-founded initiative. However, it was in there again because they had to say something was their own.

I have to give compliments, though, where compliments are due. Many of the previous initiatives of this government that are being carried forward are excellent, for example, the expansion of trade opportunities in the Pacific Rim. There is no doubt about that at all. They worked before, there is a great market to build up, and they will work again.

The introduction of a new Order of Ontario is very commendable. In my mind, it is one of the high priorities that came out of that speech from the throne. It was not all negative.

The long and the short of it is that it frustrated me. We have heard the references back and forth, “It was so dull,” and “It was your programs.” When one has been involved in coming up with programs, when one has been making them work and can see them working and then one is sitting on the end of one’s chair, knowing one is going to have to jump with enthusiasm when one hears all these new, great initiatives from this new, exuberant government, and one hears the same things one knows one had last year, the year before and the year before, it is no wonder we virtually all fell asleep.

In summary, members have heard it before. I have changed the last line slightly from references made before. There is no doubt, to put it in a very small nutshell, the speech from the throne

was surely something old, it was not very new, it was a great deal borrowed and most of what was borrowed was blue.

Mr. Laughren: It is a privilege for me to wind up this debate on behalf of my caucus. It is an event that all Ontario has been waiting for breathlessly for the last couple of weeks, and I am here to deliver it to them.

We all know the speech from the throne has two basic purposes. It is to lay out the priorities of the government for the session that follows and to provide a setting or perhaps even a warning for the budget that will be brought in the day following the vote on the speech from the throne. It is in this spirit that I respond for my caucus and my party.

This is an opportunity to compare our priorities, our philosophies and, if I dare say it, to compare our ideologies. In his response to the speech from the throne, my leader the member for York South (Mr. Rae) dealt in some detail with three major issues: competitiveness, education and health care. I will not repeat his speech; I will simply recommend it to other members as productive reading.

The last year has been a truly fascinating one for me. I have been an elected member for almost 15 years, but the last year has been by far the most fascinating. In itself, the end of a Tory dynasty held a lot of fascination for me as well, the rather heady realization that we were instrumental in ending that era. The political nervousness we experienced in entering into an accord which put us all into uncharted waters helped to make it a fascinating year.

The selection and negotiation of the specific items that we insisted went into the accord between the Liberals and New Democratic Party made it fascinating, also the fight to ensure the issues agreed upon in the accord were honoured, all the time guaranteeing a couple of years of political stability. I say "political stability," not because I think elections mean instability, but rather because a two-year period will give us an opportunity actually to implement the policies and issues put into the accord.

Now, a year later, we feel confident we did the right thing. Progress is being made, albeit with little dispatch or conviction by the government on the issues in the accord. At least the important issues that were not on the political agenda before are now on it. Those issues would never have been on it with the previous government, and even with this government they would not be on it as early as this had it not been for the accord we signed.

We are proud of the role we have played by demanding particular items in the accord. I am thinking of our demands that pay equity for women be part of the accord; that extra billing be banned; and that first-contract legislation be passed in order to prevent those nasty first-contract disputes and lockouts. An independent forestry audit is being done. Equal funding for our two public school systems is at least partway through the process. We also demanded that gas price differentials in northern Ontario be investigated, that rent increases be limited to four per cent; and that our system of workers' compensation be reformed.

These are not radical issues. They do not threaten to stand Ontario's cherished free enterprise system on its head. However, they are measures that are designed to increase fairness and equity in our society. I suspect we all agree, but we disagree on the means to achieve the goals of fairness and equity.

On Friday, May 9, my leader, and our Treasury critic, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), set out proposals in A Fair Future for Ontario that dealt in part with our grossly unfair tax system. Our tax proposals include the elimination of Ontario income tax and premiums for the Ontario health insurance plan for individuals and families below the poverty line. We propose the closing of corporation tax loopholes and a new provision that will require corporations to pay at least 50 per cent of the applicable tax rate.

We are giving some teeth to the oft-stated unhappiness of the Treasurer with Michael Wilson's virtual elimination of tax on capital gains by proposing the reintroduction of succession duties on the estates of the wealthy. We also are calling for the immediate enactment of a minimum tax on high income-earners to implement without delay the 1984 Mulroney election promise. Other proposals for a fair Ontario touch on retraining, pension reform and job creation.

4 p.m.

We are proposing a province-wide work futures fund to finance lifetime learning and retraining. Lifetime learning must become a reality for average Ontarians if our future is to be fair. Pension reform is at least a quarter of a century overdue. While moving to provide universal coverage and improved and indexed benefits, we must act to provide decent early retirement alternatives so that people who want to retire before the so-called normal age of retirement can do so. Too many people who want

to retire early today cannot because of the inadequacy of our pension plans.

New Democrats are calling for a generously funded program to encourage permanent jobs for young people and for older workers. The tax credit we propose is strictly targeted. The only corporate beneficiaries of this program would be those who create long-term jobs. We also propose a targeted program of assistance to help small businesses get started and grow. We believe such initiatives must be aimed at those who will benefit most and, moreover, ought to be directed at specific job creation activities.

Governments can no longer afford to take a "something-for-nothing" approach by designing assistance programs under which benefits are not dependent on job creation performance. We propose a refundable, small business employment creation tax credit to replace the tax holiday for newly incorporated small business firms. This credit would apply to new companies and to those up to five years old.

For new small businesses, a \$2,000-credit would be given for every third employee hired, and for established companies a \$2,000-credit would be given for every additional job created. These credits would be available after the new jobs had been filled for a period of one year.

The savings from the elimination of the small business tax holiday are estimated at \$45 million, while the cost of the small business employment creation tax credit is estimated at \$100 million. The net cost, therefore, would be \$55 million. This measure is estimated to produce 50,000 new long-term employment opportunities. I stress these are long-term employment opportunities.

Some argue our economy cannot remain competitive if we impose too many regulations and restrictions on the private sector. We are told that investment dollars will flow elsewhere if we intervene too much in the marketplace. We are warned that our brightest and best doctors will leave Ontario if we ban extra billing, that the bill for pay equity in the private sector will be astronomical and will have a negative effect on our competitiveness. We are warned that Workers' Compensation Board costs are out of control and putting some businesses out of business. We are being told rent controls are the cause of a lack of rental accommodation. The lament goes on, and I suppose it always will. In the end, we must make judgements based on our own political ideologies and personal convictions.

I know a couple of things for certain. Right now, we are experiencing profound economic

changes in this country and elsewhere. As a provincial jurisdiction, we can either be willing, passive recipients of those changes or we can attempt to influence the way they shape our lives and the lives of succeeding generations.

I want to be associated with a political party that attempts to sculpture those changes, and I want to be associated with movements outside the political process that have similar aspirations—movements such as the labour movement, the women's movement, Project Ploughshares and Amnesty International. All of us know new technologies are causing changes at a rate faster than our apparent ability to control those changes or anticipate their effect on ordinary people. In Ontario, we must decide, and soon, that as technological change surges in upon us, so will we change some of our old attitudes.

At present, a frightening shift is occurring in the distribution of wealth and power in our society. The strata are becoming increasingly easier to identify. At the bottom end of the income scale are the poor and the powerless. The middle-income group is increasingly becoming a frightened strata and the top an increasingly smaller and powerful élite. It should come as no surprise to members that since the Second World War there has been absolutely no redistribution of income in our society. Back in the early 1950s, the bottom 20 per cent of Canadian households received four per cent of the national income while the top 20 per cent received 42 per cent, 10 times as much.

Those percentages have barely changed since the Second World War ended. I point this out because, despite the complaints of the élite in our province, all that has happened is that the poor have retained their miserable share. They retained that share only because governments intervened to make sure it happened. If left to the marketplace, Statistics Canada estimates the bottom 20 per cent of families would receive less than one per cent of the national income. Now they receive four per cent. So much for Reaganomics, supply-side economics and that despicable trickle-down theory.

About a week ago, I was reading some United States material and thinking about the poor in that country. I interrupted my serious reading to skim the *Globe and Mail*. A Report on Business headline read, "Executive Pay Cheques Jump 22.5 Per Cent." That was the yearly jump. When I went through the numbers of what some executives of Canadian corporations earn, it gave me pause for thought and it should give us all pause for thought.

Some examples include: David Culver, president of Alcan Aluminum, \$702,000 a year; K. S. Barclay, chairman of AMCA International, \$842,000 a year; A. J. de Grandpré, chairman of Bell Canada Enterprises, \$882,000 a year; Arden Haynes, chairman of Imperial Oil Ltd., \$588,000; C. F. Baird, chairman of Inco Ltd., \$819,000 a year; Frank Stronach, chairman of Magna International, \$1.85 million per year.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: I wonder whether Sinc Stevens has read this.

E. B. Fitzgerald, chairman of Northern Telecom Ltd., \$1.05 million per year; G. R. Albino, chairman of Rio Algom, \$1.04 million per year; Edgar Bronfman, chairman of Seagram, \$1.4 million a year; Charles Bronfman, vice-chairman, \$820,000; and Philip Beekman, president of Seagram, \$1.05 million per year. I could go on, but the point has been made.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: How much does the president of Massey-Ferguson make? Can the member read that?

Mr. Laughren: Yes. Massey-Ferguson is on the list too. Victor Rice, Massey-Ferguson, earns \$676,000, which is more than the Treasurer earns. Is it proper that the president of Massey-Ferguson should earn more than the Treasurer? Somehow it does not seem right, given all the Treasurer has done for Massey-Ferguson.

When those salaries are combined with the incredible series of corporate takeovers and mergers in the past couple of years, we get a picture of a society controlled by an extremely small and wealthy élite. We must decide whether we want a society that consists of the powerless, the frightened and a small élite or whether we want to build a society that shares important decision-making, production priorities and income more fairly. Surely it is time. Surely we have enough confidence in ourselves to change the way in which we view the work place. It is not appropriate for the corporate élite to make almost all the important decisions and for an elected élite to make the rest of them. We must begin the process of involving people in important decisions.

4:10 p.m.

I was reading some material by Michael Harrington, perhaps most widely known as author of *The Other America*—I believe it is yet unpublished. He writes the following in talking about changes and what is happening to society and how these changes will be imposed upon us:

"So the issue posed to this generation is not whether there will be a worldwide transformation of the conditions of life; the transformation is already under way. What is to be decided is whether that transformation will control or even annihilate men and women or whether they will control it. It is preposterous to think that the invisible hand of the market will miraculously shape the intricate and global trends in a truly human fashion. It is equally absurd to think that an omniscient élite, whether it is a vanguard party or a democratic technocracy, can create freedom behind the backs of the people." Michael Harrington says it very well.

I am glad the Treasurer is here at this moment. There are predictions that Ontario will be awash in money this year as its revenues will be higher because of a booming economy.

We in this party know how many demands there are on an unlimited supply of funds, even if the revenues are higher than anticipated. We know as well that a proper measure of a government is not so much how much money it can raise, but how it spends the money it does raise. There is undoubtedly an obligation on government to manage its affairs so as to maximize revenues in as equitable a way as possible.

In Ontario, ever since the post-war economic boom, we have had a government that treated the economy as a spectator sport. The Tories were always on the sidelines either as cheerleaders or simply as spectators cheering for the home side. Admittedly, the home side was Ontario. We have paid a price for that passive role by government. There are enormous holes in our industrial fabric. We import enormous quantities of manufactured goods which we could be producing here for a strong domestic market as well as for export markets.

We still undervalue our natural resources by shipping out unprocessed minerals and by failing to add more value to our wood products. This government cannot simply repair those holes in our industrial fabric by setting hastily prepared priorities or creating crown corporations to produce a wide variety of manufactured goods. It is not that simple. This government can, however, determine to play a real leadership role. This government can at least decide that when the private sector leaves gaping holes in sectors where we have a strong domestic market, sectors such as machinery and electrical products, then the public sector has an obligation to act.

Crown corporations or institutes, as I gather the government likes to call them, joint ventures and private sector incentives are all tools to rebuild an economy that has structural deformities. If this government thinks market forces in general will look after us and trickle their benefits down upon us, this government will simply be a spectator, as was the previous government, and we will not play a meaningful role in shaping our own future.

Government leadership and intervention are absolutely crucial if we are to utilize our natural and human resources to their full potential. Asian and European countries that have grown most rapidly in recent years have done so, not despite government leadership and intervention but because of them, because goals were set and labour was consulted as part of that goal setting.

I have a pet way of assessing how developed a country is. I compare its exports and imports of advanced manufactured goods on a per capita basis. I can quote from Abraham Rotstein, whom many will know as a fervent Canadian nationalist. He wrote a little book called *Rebuilding from Within: Remedies for Canada's Ailing Economy*, in which are some interesting statistics. He outlines the imports of advanced manufacturing goods on a per capita basis: Australia, \$564; France, \$573; Germany, \$726; Italy, \$292; Japan, \$91; United Kingdom, \$537; United States, \$315; Canada \$1,164.

We are importing manufactured goods when we should be adding much more value to what we do produce to minimize those imports. Ontario is a so-called industrial heartland, but we in this province have a long way to go before we really should call ourselves an industrial heartland. There is nowhere we have further to go than in northern Ontario.

Last month's throne speech proudly announced that Ontario's economy had emerged leaner and stronger after a decade of upheaval. It boasted that increased economic activity had driven down the unemployment rate to 6.8 per cent, the lowest in Canada, and talked of bright new futures and opportunities for all Ontario. The government does not seem to understand that northern Ontario is not part of this brave new world of high technology and low unemployment. In the north we are still having trouble keeping pace with the old industrial technology.

In the same month the government prepared and delivered its speech about Ontario's glorious future, almost 4,500 people in northern Ontario either lost their jobs or had their jobs threatened by announcements from their employers. Let me

list what was happening in the north while the government was taking credit for a leaner, stronger economy. My colleagues the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) have raised these issues in the throne debate, but they must be repeated until the day comes when we will not always have such bad news.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma Steel announced it would be laying off 1,500 people in that city. It also announced it was considering closing its Wawa operation, putting another 350 people out of work and threatening the survival of that community. In Thunder Bay, 150 people lost their jobs when Great Lakes Forest Products closed its waferboard mill there. At Elliot Lake, Rio Algom announced it would be cutting its work force by 200 people over the next five years. In the Ear Falls-Red Lake area, the last of the 283 jobs at the Griffith Mine were lost.

Perhaps the most devastating news of all is in the small community of Terrace Bay. The chairman of the board of Kimberly-Clark flew into the town for a day to announce that there was a good chance he would be closing the local mill. That means 1,000 jobs in the mill and another 1,000 in woodland operations will be lost and the future of several northern communities threatened.

In all, that is 4,483 jobs lost or threatened in April alone, on top of the 46,000 northern Ontario residents already out of work. Even before this rash of announcements, the north's unemployment rate was double that of the rest of the province. However, there was no mention of these facts in the throne speech; there was no plan of action for dealing with this attack on the northern economy; in fact, there was no recognition that a problem even exists in northern Ontario.

Perhaps the Premier believes that by building a strong, high-tech economy in the Golden Horseshoe, jobs will somehow find their way up north on their own. I would like to tell him now that the trickle-up theory is even less effective than the trickle-down theory. Without direct intervention by the province, it is unrealistic to expect that any significant number of new jobs will be created in the north.

The major flaw in the government's approach to northern Ontario was made very clear in the House a few weeks ago by the Premier. When my colleagues and I questioned him about the significant number of layoffs across the north, he responded by saying he could not wave a magic

wand to solve the problem, but he would deal with each layoff and closure "one by one, as crises." This is the approach the government has been using for 42 years and counting; it abdicates all responsibility for long-term economic planning and puts a "for rent" sign on our resources. When the inevitable crisis occurs, the government reacts. It rushes in with an ad hoc selection of programs to cushion the blow. While the committees of bureaucrats rush in to put out another fire, another layoff is being announced somewhere else in northern Ontario.

It is time to try a new approach. Northern Ontario has the resources and people to sustain strong communities and long-term employment. All that is needed is the government's commitment to a few fundamental principles. First, the province must be committed to developing a comprehensive, long-term economic plan for northern Ontario. Second, northerners and their communities must have more control over the decisions about how publicly owned resources are developed and left primarily to multinational corporations with little commitment to the region or even to the country.

Kimberly-Clark's recent announcement is a good example. The first indication the community of Terrace Bay had that its future was in jeopardy was through a press report from the United States. Without notifying either the union or the community, a press release was issued from corporate headquarters in Georgia. Several weeks later, when the chairman of Kimberly-Clark flew into Terrace Bay, he said he was seriously considering closing the mill because he could not, in all conscience, pass on the problems at Terrace Bay to the next generation of Kimberly-Clark management. Apparently it does not bother his conscience to leave the problems of a closure to the next generation of Terrace Bay workers.

It is ludicrous that an American corporation can move into the north, exploit our publicly owned resources, take the profits for more than 40 years, invest them outside the country and then close down the town when bad management has turned profits into losses. All this is done with virtually no consultation with the local community that supplied the company with municipal services and willing workers and then is left to pick up the pieces when the crisis comes.

4:20 p.m.

Northern communities should be involved in every step of resources development in their area. Before a corporation is given access to resources, it should sit down with the community

and provincial officials to negotiate planning agreements. These could ask the company for guarantees that local people would be trained for the new jobs being created or that local business would be given opportunities. Agreements could include guarantees for reinvestment in the community and for a community adjustment fund to be used if a layoff or closure occurs. The most important aspect of each agreement would be that the community most affected by our resource development would be setting the agenda for negotiations.

A third principle the government must accept is that more of the wealth created through resource development must be reinvested in the north. Each year, the north produces more than \$3 billion worth of minerals and supplies most of the raw material for the \$7-billion forestry industry. Very little of this remains in northern Ontario. Much is invested in plants in other countries. Resource companies have learned to protect themselves from booms and busts by investing in a variety of different companies. The government has failed to learn from their example.

Northern development programs and funds have been introduced before, but usually on a short-term basis. What the north needs is a permanent pool of capital that will be reinvested in the north according to the development priorities set out by the province and northern communities. A fund that uses a portion of provincial revenues from resources to strengthen and diversify resource-dependent economies is a simple, logical idea. Funds like this exist in Tory Alberta and socialist Sweden. Surely it is time for the Liberal government of Ontario to create a similar fund.

Finally, in dealing with the north, the provincial government has to understand that it must play a leading role in diversifying the north's economy. As a major employer, major service provider and custodian of our natural resources, it cannot sit back and wait for someone else to take the initiative. I have talked a lot about government leadership and intervention because I believe it is necessary to deliver fairness and equity and provide jobs to our citizens.

Just as the north will not be protected by the private sector, neither will our environment. Ontario is not a world leader in environmental protection. We have virtually no enforceable regulations for air or water. Our laws have been laughable. The penalties have been trivial, even according to a study done for the ministry itself.

Average fines have been in the range of \$4,000, even for major corporations. Even Dow Chemical, after having contaminated the St. Clair River and the drinking water of communities downstream with the notorious blob, was fined only \$16,000. The vulnerability of drinking water is also evident if one examines the St. Clair example. The chloroethylene from Dow's spill last summer was detected in drinking water in Wallaceburg nine days after the accident. Testing is not the problem. Following through by setting standards that will protect the environment, and enforcing them, is the real necessity if we are to clean up the environment.

There are opportunities if the province would follow through seriously on them. The phosphate deposit at Cargill in northern Ontario is one such opportunity. Inco could recover and use its sulphur to exploit the phosphate deposits and make fertilizer. In this way, acid-rain-causing emissions would be reduced and a new industry developed in northern Ontario.

Another area worthy of government intervention is insurance. I want to speak particularly about accident and sickness insurance. Ontario has an absurd mishmash of different compensation schemes to provide for medical costs, wage loss replacement, rehabilitation and general damages when people suffer traumatic, disabling accidents. This system, or lack of system, is inefficient, unfair, arbitrary, costly, and fails to deliver needed help to the bulk of the injured population.

All experts agree: Terry Ison of Osgoode Hall, Patrick Atiyah, the British lawyer, and the US scholar Jeffrey O'Connor. The only proponents of continued reliance on the so-called tort liability system, under which those who suffer injuries should be obliged to show fault and collect after legal judgement, are the insurance companies and trial lawyers who benefit by making a living from the existing muddle. Some of them even have QCs.

The fundamental defect of our accident compensation system is that it simply does not deliver protection to those who are disabled temporarily or for ever by injuries. Since 1920, Ontario has had a scheme to compensate workers for injuries on the job. However, if the worker slips and falls just outside the work place, no compensation can be gained except in instances where some form of liability can be established, and after the cost and delay of legal action, an award for damages is secured.

Nearly 75 per cent of all accidental injuries are not work-related, nearly 80 per cent of the work

force does not enjoy any provision for loss of income protection in the short term, and some 55 per cent of those who are significantly injured in traffic accidents get no compensation.

The muddle of acts in the compensation scheme is bureaucratic and costly. We have workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, sickness benefits, Canadian pension plan disability benefits, family benefits, private sick leave plans, private disability coverage, auto insurance accident benefits, criminal injuries compensation, veterans' pensions and allowances, the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled and private sickness and accident insurance.

The solution to this unfair and inefficient mess is to introduce a universal sickness and accident scheme such as the New Democratic Party has favoured since 1972. I know my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is one of the biggest boosters of this scheme. I am sure the members will hear more from him on it.

The scheme was introduced in New Zealand in 1974, I believe, and has worked well to provide prompt, fair and efficient compensation. All victims of traumatic injury are eligible for wage loss payments, rehabilitation and adjustment assistance, such as the cost of converting a house, a car, etc., for wheelchair access.

This long-overdue comprehensive social insurance scheme should be seriously considered now that the Slater report on insurance has proposed that improved accident benefit and wage loss protection for motorists be followed by working to design a universal accident compensation plan that would include compensation for all accidental injuries.

The NDP does not want this scheme introduced by the private insurance industry. We insist that this should be an actual and short-term priority rather than one pursued "ideally and as a medium-term objective," which is in the Slater report.

I urge members to read the appendix in the Slater report, which has a separate section on the New Zealand scheme. It outlines all the benefits of that scheme. But the report itself does not recommend implementation of that scheme, I suspect because of an insurance industry bias from the committee.

As proposed in our policy, a social insurance scheme must compensate all those who are disabled and not just those who are disabled by traumatic accidents. It is scandalous that our social insurance schemes and income assistance programs discriminate so cruelly between those

who are unable to work because they are disabled, including those congenitally disabled, and those who are unable to work because they are elderly. A single, elderly person may receive up to \$714 in old age security, guaranteed income supplement and the guaranteed annual income system, whereas the single, disabled person will not get more than \$551, including the maximum shelter subsidy on Gains-D. The difference of \$163, or 23 per cent less, is for being unable to work on account of disability instead of for not being able to work on account of age.

I hope the government will take a serious look at a comprehensive sickness and accident scheme. I might add that if it will make the government members feel any better the most recent convert to this scheme is the Ontario Mining Association, which, I believe has asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to establish a royal commission to take a look at exactly that kind of scheme.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Patrick Reid.

Mr. Laughren: Patrick Reid et al have asked that this be done.

I hasten to say to the Treasurer that it may have different reasons for wanting this system put in place than I do, nevertheless the Ontario Mining Association quite categorically has requested that a royal commission be struck to take a look at this. I think it would be a worthwhile royal commission.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Does the member have any suggestions for staffing?

Mr. Laughren: Yes, I have lots of suggestions for staffing, but I do not think this is the proper time or place for giving names. Any time the minister wants to consult on who should be the chairman of such a commission, I will be glad to co-operate.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have not seen many senior democratic socialists lying around with nothing to do.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Laughren: No, but there could be. I do know that this will require a certain amount of intervention in the marketplace, particularly in the marketplace where the insurance industry enjoys some room to manoeuvre and at the insurance industry headquarters in London, Ontario. However, I think the Premier and the Treasurer could show some courage and call for such a royal commission, even if it did ruffle some feathers in London, Ontario. I am sure the Treasurer could persuade the Premier to do that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: "Show some courage and appoint a royal commission," he said. There is a quote we have to keep.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. It would take courage to appoint a royal commission on the insurance industry that would take a look at the implementation of a comprehensive sickness and accident insurance.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We just had one, and it said there was no place for public insurance for cars.

Mr. Martel: Whom did you appoint?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: A very good guy. I forget his name.

Mr. Laughren: The person who should not be chairman of this royal commission is David Slater. If the minister wants to have names of people who should be, I will be happy to co-operate.

As I said, it requires intervention, but I do not think that should bother this government.

I know, of course, that there are other areas where intervention is required. If market forces were allowed to prevail in the whole area of women's equality, I know that equality would never be achieved in our society. The speech from the throne makes several references to women, but they are vague and the promises few.

Rosalie Abella, sole commissioner of the 1984 federal Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment, comments that "massive policy intervention" is necessary to address women's inequality. The Liberal government's speech from the throne does little to reassure us that beyond living up to the promises of the accord, anything extra of substance will be done. Thank goodness pay equity is in the accord, because I fear that otherwise, nothing at all would be done.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We have had to drag that party kicking and screaming into most of these things.

Mr. Laughren: That is obvious, is it not?

The government should have announced several initiatives that would result in dramatic improvements in women's economic status. Part-time workers, most of whom are women, should receive the same rate of pay as full-time workers. Part-time workers should also receive the same benefits and pensions as full-time workers.

There is a clear need for legislated mandatory affirmative action. Child care as a right rather than as a service for the poor should be provided, and people who work in these child care centres should be adequately paid.

In our proposals for A Fair Future for Ontario, to which I referred earlier, we asked for the following: subsidizing 10,000 additional child care spaces; paying direct grants on a per diem basis for every child in a nonprofit centre or agency to increase salaries for child care workers; and providing 50 per cent capital assistance for 10,000 new child care spaces across the province.

Domestic workers must be given the rights enjoyed by other workers, such as hours of work and the right to join a union.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: A nannies' union.

Mr. Laughren: No, a domestic workers' union. The Treasurer is perhaps thinking of the private member's bill of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) a couple of years ago.

A bill to deal with wife battering is long overdue. The 1982 report of the standing committee on social development recommended that such a bill be introduced without delay. Such a bill would ensure that funds would be provided for the capital and operating costs of transition houses for battered women and their children.

The minimum wage has not been increased since October 1984, I believe, when it was increased to \$4 per hour, or \$160 per week, or just in excess of \$8,000 per year. Sadly, but predictably, a minimum wage increase would be of most benefit to women.

The question of pay equity in the private sector is an embarrassing one for this government. First it prepared a green paper. Then it launched a consultation process on the green paper and put a team of business people in charge of the process.

All in all, this government reveals its traditional view of the world and its reluctance to challenge the status quo on issues related to women. When change is long overdue, the façade of consultation is seen as just that: a façade. The complaints about the cost of equality are recognized as self-serving ones that simply reveal a willingness to require women to continue to subsidize men's wages. The arguments that equality leads to too much bureaucracy are simply proof that inequality is deeply entrenched and requires strong government leadership and intervention to end it. It is truly time to put behind us all the self-serving arguments and get on with the job of equalizing opportunities and incomes for women.

By the time this parliament has run its course, a lot of people in Ontario will be shaking their heads. They will marvel at the odd behaviour of the Ontario Liberals and will wonder who they

are and what they stand for. These are my predictions.

There will be much speculation about whether the Liberals are pro-business or anti-business. The business people will suggest they are anti-business; the rest of Ontario will be convinced they are pro-business.

The women's movement will mock the Liberal rhetoric as a substitute for action, but the forces of darkness will be convinced the Liberals are simply a front for the radical feminists.

Environmentalists will wonder what happened to what seemed to be a promising beginning, and the debate will centre on whether it was the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) or the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) who torpedoed the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley).

Northerners will still be shaking their heads and trying to figure out what the Minister of Northern Development and Mines had in mind with his committee on one-industry communities and his economic development council.

The forestry industry will be furious with the Minister of Natural Resources because he will not allow chemicals to be sprayed on our forests, but the parks enthusiasts will revile him because he has allowed virtually anything to take place in our wilderness parks.

Consumers will not notice anything different and will still be paying outrageous auto insurance premiums, but the insurance industry will accuse the government of meddling in the private sector because that industry will not be allowed to discriminate on the basis of age, sex or marital status.

Employers will be angry at the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) because of the initiatives in first-contract legislation and improvements in Workers' Compensation Board legislation. Employees and their unions will have lost confidence in the minister because of the chaotic situation in matters dealing with safety and health.

Landlords will despise the government for its legislation reducing automatic rent increases to four per cent and for imposing restrictions on condominium conversions, but tenant groups will be angry because landlords will be driving bulldozers through the loopholes in the law.

I could go on, but I think I have made my point.

This government is twisting in the wind. It has set no course, so it has none on which to stay. I know my party has its detractors, but at least we have set our course and we intend to stay on it.

We believe the government must provide leadership and selective intervention. We believe it is time to challenge the free market course of events and set our own priorities that will create new jobs and protect existing ones.

We believe we can create public investment funds controlled by local communities to build employment opportunities. We want to give average Canadians a say in how new technology will affect their future. We want to give communities a say over their environment so they can work together to protect their air, water and places of work.

We will invest in priority industries to serve as building blocks for an economy with a brighter future. We will provide equal pay for work of equal value and affirmative action for women and minorities. We will work for the provision of child care for all who need it. We will, as always, keep a universal, accessible health care system as our number one priority.

I would like to close with a quote from a very fine book entitled *Beyond the Waste Land*, written by three American economists who believe as I do that there must be a better way and that equality and social justice make good economic sense. The authors deal at some length with the kind of wasteland that exists for a lot of people in North America. I quote from the last paragraph of their book:

"We are committed to traditional popular values of democracy: equality, community, security, efficiency and liberty. We refuse to believe that these values must be abandoned or compromised in the search for economic revitalization. Our analysis of the possibility of moving beyond the wasteland convinces us that a successful and effective program for economic recovery can advance these traditional popular values, not suppress them. Popular groups can build a decent society without undercutting its economic viability. Democracy is not a cost but an essential ingredient of economic recovery."

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Andrewes: I appreciate the remarks of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). Although they lack the usual spontaneity of his remarks, they certainly express very clearly the direction of his party.

I will limit my comments this afternoon to less than the time allotted. Unfortunately, I am suffering from the same complaint as the Treasurer. I am not sure whether my voice will hold out for this entire time period, but I will do my best.

At the outset, it has been the tradition of this House in the throne speech debate to express congratulations to a number of people. I would be remiss if I did not express my congratulations to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, who has delivered an excellent first throne speech. I am speaking of the excellence of his style of delivery.

His Honour is well known to the people in my riding because of his past history in the city of Hamilton, where he was an active Progressive Conservative. He was active as a federal member and as a lawyer working on behalf of his clients and for the betterment of that whole community. He demonstrates for us all that is good, all the human qualities of caring, diligence and thoughtfulness. He does all this in an extremely dignified manner. He is a man who has a very strong feeling for the welfare of the human race, and he exemplifies all we hope for and expect from Her Majesty's representative.

I also want to include you, Mr. Speaker, in my congratulations. For almost a year, you have served this House well. I am sure your past experience in the chair stood you in fine form for your current duties and responsibilities. From time to time, we have provided the odd difficulty for you. We make no apology for that, but your response has been evenhanded and fair, and you have been consistently understanding of the rights and the privileges of the members of the Legislature.

We are especially grateful to you for the care you have undertaken of these precincts. I am sure the moves that have gone on over the past few months have not made your life all that easy. The installation of new equipment in members' offices and the recommendations of the standing committee on procedural affairs, which will place under your control the precincts of the Whitney Block, currently occupied by members, are recommendations we encourage. We ask the government and you to attempt to move expeditiously on them.

It has also been traditional for members in throne speech debates to say a few words about their ridings. I will do this briefly and quickly.

Mr. Martel: Spare us.

Mr. Andrewes: The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) knows very well that in my riding and in his there are numerous concerns about health care and about housing problems, particularly with aged people. My riding depends very heavily on the viability of agriculture. The whole question of the future of agriculture and land use and the concerns that farmers have about

their own future, relative to the rights and privileges of land use, are matters that I would be remiss if I did not bring to the members' attention.

Two dominant issues preoccupy the thoughts and activities of many of my constituents these days. These issues relate to the problems of the storage and treatment of both household garbage and toxic industrial waste. Two activities are under way. One is the matter of finding a landfill site for the four municipalities in my riding, the costs incurred to date in the search for that site, the divisions created in the communities as a result of the necessary site selection process and the whole question of the division of responsibility that exists in the Niagara region for the disposal of household garbage.

I am very encouraged. I say to those who look with mixed views on the whole situation that the item in the throne speech that talks about co-operative efforts by the government on cogeneration of electricity provides an opportunity for resolution of this critical problem in my area.

The other issue is that of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. and its initiatives to site a toxic industrial waste treatment and storage facility on agricultural land. I draw that to the attention of the minister, because I am sure he will be concerned that a crown corporation is attempting to utilize productive agricultural land for a treatment site.

The citizens who are opposed to this site, including myself, need some clarity and direction from the government on its role as the protector of agricultural land. They need some clarity from the Minister of the Environment on the question of intervenor funding. He has given some very mixed signals. In response to a question from the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) last week, the minister indicated that he was studying the issue and that it would bear further thought on his part. He is still possessed by the idea of selectively awarding intervenor funding and costs in this area.

Now to the throne speech. If I were asked to attach a title to this throne speech, it would be "Creative Plagiarism." I am not sure whether even "creative" is a good word in this instance. Perhaps "selective" would be a little more correct. It is selective plagiarism; the government has taken a little here and a little there, meshed it and produced a throne speech.

To a party that has been extolling a number of these programs over the year, perhaps that is flattering. It is an opportunity for us to say that

the government in its wisdom, having thought about our programs for 42 years, has said they are good, correct, innovative and the right way to go. This government has the gall to call this throne speech creative, exciting and innovative.

4:50 p.m.

Perhaps it is worth spending a bit of time on the throne speech to demonstrate clearly for the government where one can correctly identify the selective plagiarism.

I have before me a publication of a previous government. The publication, entitled Building Ontario in the 1980s, became public knowledge in 1980 and is from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, commonly known as BILD. I want to refer to this document in some detail. If we turn to page 2 of the document, we read: "Responsible government, however, has a higher duty to assert the broad economic interests by all and every means. Through initiatives of economic resourcefulness, our job is to make the next decade more prosperous and qualitatively better than might otherwise be the case."

Let us turn to page 2 of the throne speech and read the second paragraph. It says: "My government will continue to work for sound reform in these and other areas. However, it will focus particular attention on the fundamental challenges Ontario must face in order to fulfil its potential."

These are two paralleling paragraphs.

Let us move to page 3 of the BILD document of 1980—1980, mind you; six years ago—where it says: "Opportunities for massive economic expansion will remain untapped unless governments create the necessary atmosphere for enterprise, innovation and investment. These same opportunities will be diminished to the extent that governments fail to discharge their responsibilities to limit inflation and its debilitating effects on the capacity of free enterprise."

Let us go to page 2 of the throne speech: "The agenda for the next decade that is set forth today offers a framework for long-term achievement, rather than a list of short-term promises." So it continues.

Let me move on to another paragraph, where the throne speech says, "While continuing to build on our traditional resources and manufacturing sectors, we must master the new standards of a world economy characterized by an intense competition focused on services, knowledge, information and new technology in order to maintain and create jobs."

We look at page 4 of this document. It says, "The responsibilities of BILD will be of a broad

strategic nature to consolidate and co-ordinate the government's total economic development effort, to provide a focus for economic liaison with the federal government and other concerned interests, and to ensure maximum participation and support for Ontario's development initiatives." It is just continuing, creative, selective plagiarism.

Let me move to page 9 of the throne speech: "The mandate of the Ontario International Corp. will be expanded to enable it to better market Ontario's world-class private and public sector goods and services."

If we go to page 32 of this six-year-old BILD document, we read, "As well, the Ontario International Corp. was created to assist in marketing Ontario's public sector expertise and technical achievements around the world." Oh, dear. "One example is OISE's computer-aided learning system, a technology which is internationally recognized within the knowledge industries and now being marketed abroad." The members all remember OISE.

Finally, I turn to page 45 of this six-year-old BILD document which, in one clear line, says: "The BILD ministers have determined that the financing of the \$1.5 billion amount will need to be shared among three levels of government and the private sector. Provincial: The Treasurer of Ontario has already allocated \$750 million over the next five years as seed money for the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development." I almost said "trade," but we know that is not correct. "Additional funds will be generated by redirecting internal priorities within the Ontario government." Seven hundred and fifty million dollars.

Let us go to the speech from the throne. Page 6 talks about the Premier's council. "The council will direct a \$1-billion special technology fund, at least \$500 million of which will be new moneys, to be allocated over the next decade"—at \$50 million a year. "The fund will support, complement and encourage science and technology research in the private sector and post-secondary institutions."

I said the government had gall. It had the gall to call this a creative document; it had the gall to call it exciting, innovative, a pattern for the next decade, something that will take Ontario into the future. I say only this, that what these two documents have in common, and I have demonstrated it quite clearly, is a common author. The talents, the abilities, the creativity of the present Deputy Minister of Energy are clearly recog-

nized by this government, as they were by the previous one.

I want to go on for a minute or two on the question of selective plagiarism. On page 14 of the document, it deals with some of the Agriculture and Food initiatives. I am delighted that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) is here for this discussion; once we complete the discussion, he will have an opportunity to ask me some questions.

Page 14 mentions "a modernized pesticide laboratory to maintain the highest standards of expertise in pesticide analysis." Let us go back to the BILD document, where it says: "The government proposes to build on this capacity by establishing a joint centre for toxicology. This centre will address the concerns of the public on possible hazards from the manufacture, use and disposal of industrial products"—that was written in 1980; maybe it is boring, but I will read on—"as well as establishing a laboratory for expertise in pesticide analysis and a world-class food quality laboratory to safeguard Ontario consumers by ensuring that food products meet established quality and safety standards."

Let me go to another document, entitled Agriculture—The Economic Cornerstone: Renewal and Reinvestment. This document became public around October 1985. It was generated by the Grossman campaign. Page 11 of this document—the Minister of Agriculture and Food will no doubt have noticed it, because I am sure he liked what he read here—says:

"Also, we would initiate a Pure Food Act. There is continuing public concern about the quality of our food products. Even though the record of our domestically produced food is excellent, we must be vigilant. Continued inspection and increased testing for pesticide and other chemical residues are required. In addition to testing products grown in Ontario, a significant testing of imported foods would be done." It goes on to describe more fully the Pure Food Act.

5 p.m.

What this document, entitled Address of the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander...on the opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-Third Parliament of the Province of Ontario, leaves out is made very clear in this document. Perhaps the plagiarism perhaps has not gone far enough. The Minister of Agriculture and Food no doubt will want to read more carefully the whole study and the whole proposal put out by the Grossman campaign in October 1985, six months in advance of this throne speech. There are other examples. The throne speech on page

Crown corporations or institutes, as I gather the government likes to call them, joint ventures and private sector incentives are all tools to rebuild an economy that has structural deformities. If this government thinks market forces in general will look after us and trickle their benefits down upon us, this government will simply be a spectator, as was the previous government, and we will not play a meaningful role in shaping our own future.

Government leadership and intervention are absolutely crucial if we are to utilize our natural and human resources to their full potential. Asian and European countries that have grown most rapidly in recent years have done so, not despite government leadership and intervention but because of them, because goals were set and labour was consulted as part of that goal setting.

I have a pet way of assessing how developed a country is. I compare its exports and imports of advanced manufactured goods on a per capita basis. I can quote from Abraham Rotstein, whom many will know as a fervent Canadian nationalist. He wrote a little book called *Rebuilding from Within: Remedies for Canada's Ailing Economy*, in which are some interesting statistics. He outlines the imports of advanced manufacturing goods on a per capita basis: Australia, \$564; France, \$573; Germany, \$726; Italy, \$292; Japan, \$91; United Kingdom, \$537; United States, \$315; Canada \$1,164.

We are importing manufactured goods when we should be adding much more value to what we do produce to minimize those imports. Ontario is a so-called industrial heartland, but we in this province have a long way to go before we really should call ourselves an industrial heartland. There is nowhere we have further to go than in northern Ontario.

Last month's throne speech proudly announced that Ontario's economy had emerged leaner and stronger after a decade of upheaval. It boasted that increased economic activity had driven down the unemployment rate to 6.8 per cent, the lowest in Canada, and talked of bright new futures and opportunities for all Ontario. The government does not seem to understand that northern Ontario is not part of this brave new world of high technology and low unemployment. In the north we are still having trouble keeping pace with the old industrial technology.

In the same month the government prepared and delivered its speech about Ontario's glorious future, almost 4,500 people in northern Ontario either lost their jobs or had their jobs threatened by announcements from their employers. Let me

list what was happening in the north while the government was taking credit for a leaner, stronger economy. My colleagues the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) have raised these issues in the throne debate, but they must be repeated until the day comes when we will not always have such bad news.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma Steel announced it would be laying off 1,500 people in that city. It also announced it was considering closing its Wawa operation, putting another 350 people out of work and threatening the survival of that community. In Thunder Bay, 150 people lost their jobs when Great Lakes Forest Products closed its waferboard mill there. At Elliot Lake, Rio Algom announced it would be cutting its work force by 200 people over the next five years. In the Ear Falls-Red Lake area, the last of the 283 jobs at the Griffith Mine were lost.

Perhaps the most devastating news of all is in the small community of Terrace Bay. The chairman of the board of Kimberly-Clark flew into the town for a day to announce that there was a good chance he would be closing the local mill. That means 1,000 jobs in the mill and another 1,000 in woodland operations will be lost and the future of several northern communities threatened.

In all, that is 4,483 jobs lost or threatened in April alone, on top of the 46,000 northern Ontario residents already out of work. Even before this rash of announcements, the north's unemployment rate was double that of the rest of the province. However, there was no mention of these facts in the throne speech; there was no plan of action for dealing with this attack on the northern economy; in fact, there was no recognition that a problem even exists in northern Ontario.

Perhaps the Premier believes that by building a strong, high-tech economy in the Golden Horseshoe, jobs will somehow find their way up north on their own. I would like to tell him now that the trickle-up theory is even less effective than the trickle-down theory. Without direct intervention by the province, it is unrealistic to expect that any significant number of new jobs will be created in the north.

The major flaw in the government's approach to northern Ontario was made very clear in the House a few weeks ago by the Premier. When my colleagues and I questioned him about the significant number of layoffs across the north, he responded by saying he could not wave a magic

wand to solve the problem, but he would deal with each layoff and closure "one by one, as crises." This is the approach the government has been using for 42 years and counting; it abdicates all responsibility for long-term economic planning and puts a "for rent" sign on our resources. When the inevitable crisis occurs, the government reacts. It rushes in with an ad hoc selection of programs to cushion the blow. While the committees of bureaucrats rush in to put out another fire, another layoff is being announced somewhere else in northern Ontario.

It is time to try a new approach. Northern Ontario has the resources and people to sustain strong communities and long-term employment. All that is needed is the government's commitment to a few fundamental principles. First, the province must be committed to developing a comprehensive, long-term economic plan for northern Ontario. Second, northerners and their communities must have more control over the decisions about how publicly owned resources are developed and left primarily to multinational corporations with little commitment to the region or even to the country.

Kimberly-Clark's recent announcement is a good example. The first indication the community of Terrace Bay had that its future was in jeopardy was through a press report from the United States. Without notifying either the union or the community, a press release was issued from corporate headquarters in Georgia. Several weeks later, when the chairman of Kimberly-Clark flew into Terrace Bay, he said he was seriously considering closing the mill because he could not, in all conscience, pass on the problems at Terrace Bay to the next generation of Kimberly-Clark management. Apparently it does not bother his conscience to leave the problems of a closure to the next generation of Terrace Bay workers.

It is ludicrous that an American corporation can move into the north, exploit our publicly owned resources, take the profits for more than 40 years, invest them outside the country and then close down the town when bad management has turned profits into losses. All this is done with virtually no consultation with the local community that supplied the company with municipal services and willing workers and then is left to pick up the pieces when the crisis comes.

4:20 p.m.

Northern communities should be involved in every step of resources development in their area. Before a corporation is given access to resources, it should sit down with the community

and provincial officials to negotiate planning agreements. These could ask the company for guarantees that local people would be trained for the new jobs being created or that local business would be given opportunities. Agreements could include guarantees for reinvestment in the community and for a community adjustment fund to be used if a layoff or closure occurs. The most important aspect of each agreement would be that the community most affected by our resource development would be setting the agenda for negotiations.

A third principle the government must accept is that more of the wealth created through resource development must be reinvested in the north. Each year, the north produces more than \$3 billion worth of minerals and supplies most of the raw material for the \$7-billion forestry industry. Very little of this remains in northern Ontario. Much is invested in plants in other countries. Resource companies have learned to protect themselves from booms and busts by investing in a variety of different companies. The government has failed to learn from their example.

Northern development programs and funds have been introduced before, but usually on a short-term basis. What the north needs is a permanent pool of capital that will be reinvested in the north according to the development priorities set out by the province and northern communities. A fund that uses a portion of provincial revenues from resources to strengthen and diversify resource-dependent economies is a simple, logical idea. Funds like this exist in Tory Alberta and socialist Sweden. Surely it is time for the Liberal government of Ontario to create a similar fund.

Finally, in dealing with the north, the provincial government has to understand that it must play a leading role in diversifying the north's economy. As a major employer, major service provider and custodian of our natural resources, it cannot sit back and wait for someone else to take the initiative. I have talked a lot about government leadership and intervention because I believe it is necessary to deliver fairness and equity and provide jobs to our citizens.

Just as the north will not be protected by the private sector, neither will our environment. Ontario is not a world leader in environmental protection. We have virtually no enforceable regulations for air or water. Our laws have been laughable. The penalties have been trivial, even according to a study done for the ministry itself.

Average fines have been in the range of \$4,000, even for major corporations. Even Dow Chemical, after having contaminated the St. Clair River and the drinking water of communities downstream with the notorious blob, was fined only \$16,000. The vulnerability of drinking water is also evident if one examines the St. Clair example. The chloroethylene from Dow's spill last summer was detected in drinking water in Wallaceburg nine days after the accident. Testing is not the problem. Following through by setting standards that will protect the environment, and enforcing them, is the real necessity if we are to clean up the environment.

There are opportunities if the province would follow through seriously on them. The phosphate deposit at Cargill in northern Ontario is one such opportunity. Inco could recover and use its sulphur to exploit the phosphate deposits and make fertilizer. In this way, acid-rain-causing emissions would be reduced and a new industry developed in northern Ontario.

Another area worthy of government intervention is insurance. I want to speak particularly about accident and sickness insurance. Ontario has an absurd mishmash of different compensation schemes to provide for medical costs, wage loss replacement, rehabilitation and general damages when people suffer traumatic, disabling accidents. This system, or lack of system, is inefficient, unfair, arbitrary, costly, and fails to deliver needed help to the bulk of the injured population.

All experts agree: Terry Ison of Osgoode Hall, Patrick Atiyah, the British lawyer, and the US scholar Jeffrey O'Connor. The only proponents of continued reliance on the so-called tort liability system, under which those who suffer injuries should be obliged to show fault and collect after legal judgement, are the insurance companies and trial lawyers who benefit by making a living from the existing muddle. Some of them even have QCs.

The fundamental defect of our accident compensation system is that it simply does not deliver protection to those who are disabled temporarily or for ever by injuries. Since 1920, Ontario has had a scheme to compensate workers for injuries on the job. However, if the worker slips and falls just outside the work place, no compensation can be gained except in instances where some form of liability can be established, and after the cost and delay of legal action, an award for damages is secured.

Nearly 75 per cent of all accidental injuries are not work-related, nearly 80 per cent of the work

force does not enjoy any provision for loss of income protection in the short term, and some 55 per cent of those who are significantly injured in traffic accidents get no compensation.

The muddle of acts in the compensation scheme is bureaucratic and costly. We have workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, sickness benefits, Canadian pension plan disability benefits, family benefits, private sick leave plans, private disability coverage, auto insurance accident benefits, criminal injuries compensation, veterans' pensions and allowances, the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled and private sickness and accident insurance.

The solution to this unfair and inefficient mess is to introduce a universal sickness and accident scheme such as the New Democratic Party has favoured since 1972. I know my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is one of the biggest boosters of this scheme. I am sure the members will hear more from him on it.

The scheme was introduced in New Zealand in 1974, I believe, and has worked well to provide prompt, fair and efficient compensation. All victims of traumatic injury are eligible for wage loss payments, rehabilitation and adjustment assistance, such as the cost of converting a house, a car, etc., for wheelchair access.

This long-overdue comprehensive social insurance scheme should be seriously considered now that the Slater report on insurance has proposed that improved accident benefit and wage loss protection for motorists be followed by working to design a universal accident compensation plan that would include compensation for all accidental injuries.

The NDP does not want this scheme introduced by the private insurance industry. We insist that this should be an actual and short-term priority rather than one pursued "ideally and as a medium-term objective," which is in the Slater report.

I urge members to read the appendix in the Slater report, which has a separate section on the New Zealand scheme. It outlines all the benefits of that scheme. But the report itself does not recommend implementation of that scheme, I suspect because of an insurance industry bias from the committee.

As proposed in our policy, a social insurance scheme must compensate all those who are disabled and not just those who are disabled by traumatic accidents. It is scandalous that our social insurance schemes and income assistance programs discriminate so cruelly between those

who are unable to work because they are disabled, including those congenitally disabled, and those who are unable to work because they are elderly. A single, elderly person may receive up to \$714 in old age security, guaranteed income supplement and the guaranteed annual income system, whereas the single, disabled person will not get more than \$551, including the maximum shelter subsidy on Gains-D. The difference of \$163, or 23 per cent less, is for being unable to work on account of disability instead of for not being able to work on account of age.

I hope the government will take a serious look at a comprehensive sickness and accident scheme. I might add that if it will make the government members feel any better the most recent convert to this scheme is the Ontario Mining Association, which, I believe has asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to establish a royal commission to take a look at exactly that kind of scheme.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Patrick Reid.

Mr. Laughren: Patrick Reid et al have asked that this be done.

I hasten to say to the Treasurer that it may have different reasons for wanting this system put in place than I do, nevertheless the Ontario Mining Association quite categorically has requested that a royal commission be struck to take a look at this. I think it would be a worthwhile royal commission.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Does the member have any suggestions for staffing?

Mr. Laughren: Yes, I have lots of suggestions for staffing, but I do not think this is the proper time or place for giving names. Any time the minister wants to consult on who should be the chairman of such a commission, I will be glad to co-operate.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have not seen many senior democratic socialists lying around with nothing to do.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Laughren: No, but there could be. I do know that this will require a certain amount of intervention in the marketplace, particularly in the marketplace where the insurance industry enjoys some room to manoeuvre and at the insurance industry headquarters in London, Ontario. However, I think the Premier and the Treasurer could show some courage and call for such a royal commission, even if it did ruffle some feathers in London, Ontario. I am sure the Treasurer could persuade the Premier to do that.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: "Show some courage and appoint a royal commission," he said. There is a quote we have to keep.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. It would take courage to appoint a royal commission on the insurance industry that would take a look at the implementation of a comprehensive sickness and accident insurance.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We just had one, and it said there was no place for public insurance for cars.

Mr. Martel: Whom did you appoint?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: A very good guy. I forget his name.

Mr. Laughren: The person who should not be chairman of this royal commission is David Slater. If the minister wants to have names of people who should be, I will be happy to co-operate.

As I said, it requires intervention, but I do not think that should bother this government.

I know, of course, that there are other areas where intervention is required. If market forces were allowed to prevail in the whole area of women's equality, I know that equality would never be achieved in our society. The speech from the throne makes several references to women, but they are vague and the promises few.

Rosalie Abella, sole commissioner of the 1984 federal Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment, comments that "massive policy intervention" is necessary to address women's inequality. The Liberal government's speech from the throne does little to reassure us that beyond living up to the promises of the accord, anything extra of substance will be done. Thank goodness pay equity is in the accord, because I fear that otherwise, nothing at all would be done.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We have had to drag that party kicking and screaming into most of these things.

Mr. Laughren: That is obvious, is it not?

The government should have announced several initiatives that would result in dramatic improvements in women's economic status. Part-time workers, most of whom are women, should receive the same rate of pay as full-time workers. Part-time workers should also receive the same benefits and pensions as full-time workers.

There is a clear need for legislated mandatory affirmative action. Child care as a right rather than as a service for the poor should be provided, and people who work in these child care centres should be adequately paid.

In our proposals for A Fair Future for Ontario, to which I referred earlier, we asked for the following: subsidizing 10,000 additional child care spaces; paying direct grants on a per diem basis for every child in a nonprofit centre or agency to increase salaries for child care workers; and providing 50 per cent capital assistance for 10,000 new child care spaces across the province.

Domestic workers must be given the rights enjoyed by other workers, such as hours of work and the right to join a union.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: A nannies' union.

Mr. Laughren: No, a domestic workers' union. The Treasurer is perhaps thinking of the private member's bill of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) a couple of years ago.

A bill to deal with wife battering is long overdue. The 1982 report of the standing committee on social development recommended that such a bill be introduced without delay. Such a bill would ensure that funds would be provided for the capital and operating costs of transition houses for battered women and their children.

The minimum wage has not been increased since October 1984, I believe, when it was increased to \$4 per hour, or \$160 per week, or just in excess of \$8,000 per year. Sadly, but predictably, a minimum wage increase would be of most benefit to women.

The question of pay equity in the private sector is an embarrassing one for this government. First it prepared a green paper. Then it launched a consultation process on the green paper and put a team of business people in charge of the process.

All in all, this government reveals its traditional view of the world and its reluctance to challenge the status quo on issues related to women. When change is long overdue, the façade of consultation is seen as just that: a façade. The complaints about the cost of equality are recognized as self-serving ones that simply reveal a willingness to require women to continue to subsidize men's wages. The arguments that equality leads to too much bureaucracy are simply proof that inequality is deeply entrenched and requires strong government leadership and intervention to end it. It is truly time to put behind us all the self-serving arguments and get on with the job of equalizing opportunities and incomes for women.

By the time this parliament has run its course, a lot of people in Ontario will be shaking their heads. They will marvel at the odd behaviour of the Ontario Liberals and will wonder who they

are and what they stand for. These are my predictions.

There will be much speculation about whether the Liberals are pro-business or anti-business. The business people will suggest they are anti-business; the rest of Ontario will be convinced they are pro-business.

The women's movement will mock the Liberal rhetoric as a substitute for action, but the forces of darkness will be convinced the Liberals are simply a front for the radical feminists.

Environmentalists will wonder what happened to what seemed to be a promising beginning, and the debate will centre on whether it was the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine) or the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) who torpedoed the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley).

Northerners will still be shaking their heads and trying to figure out what the Minister of Northern Development and Mines had in mind with his committee on one-industry communities and his economic development council.

The forestry industry will be furious with the Minister of Natural Resources because he will not allow chemicals to be sprayed on our forests, but the parks enthusiasts will revile him because he has allowed virtually anything to take place in our wilderness parks.

Consumers will not notice anything different and will still be paying outrageous auto insurance premiums, but the insurance industry will accuse the government of meddling in the private sector because that industry will not be allowed to discriminate on the basis of age, sex or marital status.

Employers will be angry at the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) because of the initiatives in first-contract legislation and improvements in Workers' Compensation Board legislation. Employees and their unions will have lost confidence in the minister because of the chaotic situation in matters dealing with safety and health.

Landlords will despise the government for its legislation reducing automatic rent increases to four per cent and for imposing restrictions on condominium conversions, but tenant groups will be angry because landlords will be driving bulldozers through the loopholes in the law.

I could go on, but I think I have made my point.

This government is twisting in the wind. It has set no course, so it has none on which to stay. I know my party has its detractors, but at least we have set our course and we intend to stay on it.

We believe the government must provide leadership and selective intervention. We believe it is time to challenge the free market course of events and set our own priorities that will create new jobs and protect existing ones.

We believe we can create public investment funds controlled by local communities to build employment opportunities. We want to give average Canadians a say in how new technology will affect their future. We want to give communities a say over their environment so they can work together to protect their air, water and places of work.

We will invest in priority industries to serve as building blocks for an economy with a brighter future. We will provide equal pay for work of equal value and affirmative action for women and minorities. We will work for the provision of child care for all who need it. We will, as always, keep a universal, accessible health care system as our number one priority.

I would like to close with a quote from a very fine book entitled *Beyond the Waste Land*, written by three American economists who believe as I do that there must be a better way and that equality and social justice make good economic sense. The authors deal at some length with the kind of wasteland that exists for a lot of people in North America. I quote from the last paragraph of their book:

"We are committed to traditional popular values of democracy: equality, community, security, efficiency and liberty. We refuse to believe that these values must be abandoned or compromised in the search for economic revitalization. Our analysis of the possibility of moving beyond the wasteland convinces us that a successful and effective program for economic recovery can advance these traditional popular values, not suppress them. Popular groups can build a decent society without undercutting its economic viability. Democracy is not a cost but an essential ingredient of economic recovery."

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Andrewes: I appreciate the remarks of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). Although they lack the usual spontaneity of his remarks, they certainly express very clearly the direction of his party.

I will limit my comments this afternoon to less than the time allotted. Unfortunately, I am suffering from the same complaint as the Treasurer. I am not sure whether my voice will hold out for this entire time period, but I will do my best.

At the outset, it has been the tradition of this House in the throne speech debate to express congratulations to a number of people. I would be remiss if I did not express my congratulations to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, who has delivered an excellent first throne speech. I am speaking of the excellence of his style of delivery.

His Honour is well known to the people in my riding because of his past history in the city of Hamilton, where he was an active Progressive Conservative. He was active as a federal member and as a lawyer working on behalf of his clients and for the betterment of that whole community. He demonstrates for us all that is good, all the human qualities of caring, diligence and thoughtfulness. He does all this in an extremely dignified manner. He is a man who has a very strong feeling for the welfare of the human race, and he exemplifies all we hope for and expect from Her Majesty's representative.

I also want to include you, Mr. Speaker, in my congratulations. For almost a year, you have served this House well. I am sure your past experience in the chair stood you in fine form for your current duties and responsibilities. From time to time, we have provided the odd difficulty for you. We make no apology for that, but your response has been evenhanded and fair, and you have been consistently understanding of the rights and the privileges of the members of the Legislature.

We are especially grateful to you for the care you have undertaken of these precincts. I am sure the moves that have gone on over the past few months have not made your life all that easy. The installation of new equipment in members' offices and the recommendations of the standing committee on procedural affairs, which will place under your control the precincts of the Whitney Block, currently occupied by members, are recommendations we encourage. We ask the government and you to attempt to move expeditiously on them.

It has also been traditional for members in throne speech debates to say a few words about their ridings. I will do this briefly and quickly.

Mr. Martel: Spare us.

Mr. Andrewes: The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) knows very well that in my riding and in his there are numerous concerns about health care and about housing problems, particularly with aged people. My riding depends very heavily on the viability of agriculture. The whole question of the future of agriculture and land use and the concerns that farmers have about

their own future, relative to the rights and privileges of land use, are matters that I would be remiss if I did not bring to the members' attention.

Two dominant issues preoccupy the thoughts and activities of many of my constituents these days. These issues relate to the problems of the storage and treatment of both household garbage and toxic industrial waste. Two activities are under way. One is the matter of finding a landfill site for the four municipalities in my riding, the costs incurred to date in the search for that site, the divisions created in the communities as a result of the necessary site selection process and the whole question of the division of responsibility that exists in the Niagara region for the disposal of household garbage.

I am very encouraged. I say to those who look with mixed views on the whole situation that the item in the throne speech that talks about co-operative efforts by the government on cogeneration of electricity provides an opportunity for resolution of this critical problem in my area.

The other issue is that of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. and its initiatives to site a toxic industrial waste treatment and storage facility on agricultural land. I draw that to the attention of the minister, because I am sure he will be concerned that a crown corporation is attempting to utilize productive agricultural land for a treatment site.

The citizens who are opposed to this site, including myself, need some clarity and direction from the government on its role as the protector of agricultural land. They need some clarity from the Minister of the Environment on the question of intervenor funding. He has given some very mixed signals. In response to a question from the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) last week, the minister indicated that he was studying the issue and that it would bear further thought on his part. He is still possessed by the idea of selectively awarding intervenor funding and costs in this area.

Now to the throne speech. If I were asked to attach a title to this throne speech, it would be "Creative Plagiarism." I am not sure whether even "creative" is a good word in this instance. Perhaps "selective" would be a little more correct. It is selective plagiarism; the government has taken a little here and a little there, meshed it and produced a throne speech.

To a party that has been extolling a number of these programs over the year, perhaps that is flattering. It is an opportunity for us to say that

the government in its wisdom, having thought about our programs for 42 years, has said they are good, correct, innovative and the right way to go. This government has the gall to call this throne speech creative, exciting and innovative.

4:50 p.m.

Perhaps it is worth spending a bit of time on the throne speech to demonstrate clearly for the government where one can correctly identify the selective plagiarism.

I have before me a publication of a previous government. The publication, entitled Building Ontario in the 1980s, became public knowledge in 1980 and is from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, commonly known as BILD. I want to refer to this document in some detail. If we turn to page 2 of the document, we read: "Responsible government, however, has a higher duty to assert the broad economic interests by all and every means. Through initiatives of economic resourcefulness, our job is to make the next decade more prosperous and qualitatively better than might otherwise be the case."

Let us turn to page 2 of the throne speech and read the second paragraph. It says: "My government will continue to work for sound reform in these and other areas. However, it will focus particular attention on the fundamental challenges Ontario must face in order to fulfil its potential."

These are two paralleling paragraphs.

Let us move to page 3 of the BILD document of 1980—1980, mind you; six years ago—where it says: "Opportunities for massive economic expansion will remain untapped unless governments create the necessary atmosphere for enterprise, innovation and investment. These same opportunities will be diminished to the extent that governments fail to discharge their responsibilities to limit inflation and its debilitating effects on the capacity of free enterprise."

Let us go to page 2 of the throne speech: "The agenda for the next decade that is set forth today offers a framework for long-term achievement, rather than a list of short-term promises." So it continues.

Let me move on to another paragraph, where the throne speech says, "While continuing to build on our traditional resources and manufacturing sectors, we must master the new standards of a world economy characterized by an intense competition focused on services, knowledge, information and new technology in order to maintain and create jobs."

We look at page 4 of this document. It says, "The responsibilities of BILD will be of a broad

strategic nature to consolidate and co-ordinate the government's total economic development effort, to provide a focus for economic liaison with the federal government and other concerned interests, and to ensure maximum participation and support for Ontario's development initiatives." It is just continuing, creative, selective plagiarism.

Let me move to page 9 of the throne speech: "The mandate of the Ontario International Corp. will be expanded to enable it to better market Ontario's world-class private and public sector goods and services."

If we go to page 32 of this six-year-old BILD document, we read, "As well, the Ontario International Corp. was created to assist in marketing Ontario's public sector expertise and technical achievements around the world." Oh, dear. "One example is OISE's computer-aided learning system, a technology which is internationally recognized within the knowledge industries and now being marketed abroad." The members all remember OISE.

Finally, I turn to page 45 of this six-year-old BILD document which, in one clear line, says: "The BILD ministers have determined that the financing of the \$1.5 billion amount will need to be shared among three levels of government and the private sector. Provincial: The Treasurer of Ontario has already allocated \$750 million over the next five years as seed money for the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development." I almost said "trade," but we know that is not correct. "Additional funds will be generated by redirecting internal priorities within the Ontario government." Seven hundred and fifty million dollars.

Let us go to the speech from the throne. Page 6 talks about the Premier's council. "The council will direct a \$1-billion special technology fund, at least \$500 million of which will be new moneys, to be allocated over the next decade"—at \$50 million a year. "The fund will support, complement and encourage science and technology research in the private sector and post-secondary institutions."

I said the government had gall. It had the gall to call this a creative document; it had the gall to call it exciting, innovative, a pattern for the next decade, something that will take Ontario into the future. I say only this, that what these two documents have in common, and I have demonstrated it quite clearly, is a common author. The talents, the abilities, the creativity of the present Deputy Minister of Energy are clearly recog-

nized by this government, as they were by the previous one.

I want to go on for a minute or two on the question of selective plagiarism. On page 14 of the document, it deals with some of the Agriculture and Food initiatives. I am delighted that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) is here for this discussion; once we complete the discussion, he will have an opportunity to ask me some questions.

Page 14 mentions "a modernized pesticide laboratory to maintain the highest standards of expertise in pesticide analysis." Let us go back to the BILD document, where it says: "The government proposes to build on this capacity by establishing a joint centre for toxicology. This centre will address the concerns of the public on possible hazards from the manufacture, use and disposal of industrial products"—that was written in 1980; maybe it is boring, but I will read on—"as well as establishing a laboratory for expertise in pesticide analysis and a world-class food quality laboratory to safeguard Ontario consumers by ensuring that food products meet established quality and safety standards."

Let me go to another document, entitled Agriculture—The Economic Cornerstone: Renewal and Reinvestment. This document became public around October 1985. It was generated by the Grossman campaign. Page 11 of this document—the Minister of Agriculture and Food will no doubt have noticed it, because I am sure he liked what he read here—says:

"Also, we would initiate a Pure Food Act. There is continuing public concern about the quality of our food products. Even though the record of our domestically produced food is excellent, we must be vigilant. Continued inspection and increased testing for pesticide and other chemical residues are required. In addition to testing products grown in Ontario, a significant testing of imported foods would be done." It goes on to describe more fully the Pure Food Act.

5 p.m.

What this document, entitled Address of the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander...on the opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-Third Parliament of the Province of Ontario, leaves out is made very clear in this document. Perhaps the plagiarism perhaps has not gone far enough. The Minister of Agriculture and Food no doubt will want to read more carefully the whole study and the whole proposal put out by the Grossman campaign in October 1985, six months in advance of this throne speech. There are other examples. The throne speech on page

among those of waning influence is the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

There is somebody else the members might be interested in on the list. The Leader of the Opposition's chief fund-raiser, W. Darcy McKeough, is on the list of those without very much influence. Is it any wonder? I went home on the weekend and found a letter from W. Darcy McKeough. That letter was about as wretched, miserable and unhappy as the intervention of the Leader of the Opposition in this throne debate 12 days ago. That the Duke of Chatham-Kent should come to this. If members want to fantasize for a moment, they should think about this: Darcy McKeough as chief fund-raiser for the Leader of the Opposition.

The member for Sudbury East will recall that famous line from the Duke of Chatham-Kent some seven, eight or nine years ago. My friend the member for York Mills will remember the Duke of Chatham-Kent saying, "I never liked Allan Grossman until I met Larry." Now we have a new order. We have the Duke of Chatham-Kent out raising money for the leader of the Conservative Party, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. It is truly a brave new world in which we find ourselves.

I wanted to take the opportunity this afternoon to make some reference to some of these remarkable happenings within the Conservative Party, truly the rags and tatters of a once great party that governed this province for a long time. However, on the basis of its current leadership and approach, it is a party that shows no signs of resuming its previous posture and glory.

The member for Lincoln was going on at great length today about this throne speech the Lieutenant Governor read on April 22, 1986. Does the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) remember the last Tory throne speech? Does he remember that day?

I was struck when I read the comments of the Leader of the Opposition in his April 30 address. He said, "We must ask what the events of a year ago were all about." That is a very good text from which to make some comments.

I have a very high regard for my friend the member for York Mills. I do not always agree with her, but despite our many differences over the years, I have never met anyone in politics for whom I have more respect in her attachment to her principles. In many cases, they are not principles I would adopt, but I think every member of this assembly will agree that she is a truly honourable member who feels passionately about her causes in politics.

I ask this assembly and the absent member for Lincoln—and I do not mean that in any critical way—to think back to June 4, 1985. Do members remember the Lieutenant Governor having to read a speech that represented the most thorough repudiation of everything for which the distinguished member for Muskoka had stood in the recent public consultation that ended in the May 2 results?

Members will cast their minds back to the litany. The government was in favour of proclaiming the spills bill; it was in favour of pay equity in the public sector; it was going to reinstate the Hydro committee; it was in favour of first contracts; it was in favour of all kinds of child care initiatives. It was going to introduce 90 new programs that would cost \$1 billion on top of the \$1 billion that had been promised in the election. That speech of June 4, 1985, was truly amazing.

That is not what the people of this province are disposed to respect. They are disposed to respect individuals and parties of commitment and principle.

This government has taken very tough stands.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I caution the members of the New Democratic Party.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is interesting that the member for Oshawa should be here. The members of the third party have been rather outspoken in recent days. I will not read what the member for Oshawa said about his leader in the May 3, 1986, issue of the *Globe and Mail*. I will not read what that same article quotes the distinguished member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) as saying. I will not quote the deputy leader, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds). However, members of the third party will want to be more guarded in their comments about their leader, a man for whom I have the highest regard.

6 p.m.

This government, under the very able and dynamic leadership of the Premier, has taken tough stands. Whether it is my colleague and friend the Minister of Health, who has stood up to a very powerful lobby and issue in this province and made the intentions of this government clear; whether it is the Treasurer, who has given the Ministry of Treasury and Economics a leadership it has not experienced in the modern period; whether it is my friend the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) in his new French-

language-services legislation, or whether it is the Minister of the Environment, who brings to his new responsibility a dynamism and an activism that has never been seen in the Ministry of the Environment, this government has an agenda for reform on which it is proceeding. The throne speech read by the Lieutenant Governor on April 22 is very much in that connection; it looks to the future.

I say to the member for Bellwoods, this is a government that is serious about the issues of economic development and growth. Unlike members of the third party, we have a philosophical interest and an ideological commitment to the creation of new wealth. Lest some in this province get the impression that there is not a difference, there is a real difference.

This is a government, under the very able and dynamic leadership of the member for London Centre—what a joy it has been to sit with the member for London Centre these 10 or 11 months and to be part of this new government—a government that is well responded to everywhere one travels in this province. To be sure, there are people who do not agree, there are obviously individuals who do not agree in all particulars, but this is a government with a commitment to getting on with the issues of the 1990s and beyond.

As Minister of Education, I have made it clear what the intentions of the ministry are with respect to new initiatives in science education. The other day I was distraught at the reaction to what I thought was a very important line in an important statement: that science is for everyone. My Oxford-educated friend, the member for York South, would do well to read what the Science Council of Canada found in its study in the 1982-83 period.

He would also do well to read the advice tendered by his seatmate the member for Port Arthur to travel. I think in that article to which I made earlier reference there is advice from the deputy leader of the party that perhaps the leader of the third party should get out and travel, because if he were to travel in the educational community, he would find there is a genuine interest in new opportunities in the area of science.

This government is committed to excellence and relevance in education, and under the leadership of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, we intend to ensure that in the north, for example, our programs for science and technological education are state-of-the-art. We will in the coming days, for the benefit of the

member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), who has not shown any reluctance to claim any credit for the many good works of this government—have you noticed how a ribbon-cutting attracts the presence of the member for Fort William, Mr. Speaker? It is quite remarkable. I caution the member for Fort William not to be too critical.

Mr. McFadden: He is a great member.

Hon. Mr. Conway: He is a great member. I remember when he was a great member of another party. Our Treasurer could spell that out in greater chapter and verse, but then he could do the same about the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), the member for York Mills, the member for Ottawa West and a variety of other individuals.

Miss Stephenson: Oh no, you wouldn't. Now that is fantasy.

Hon. Mr. Conway: There, at last, we have the member for York Mills talking of fantasy. I knew that before the speech was over she would come to that.

Because of the lateness of the hour, I want to say that if I seem excited, it is because I am excited. This government is excited about the opportunities that are now before the people of this province: exciting opportunities in trade, in industry, in agriculture.

Mr. Martel: What about northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Unlike the oracle from Coniston or wherever, we in this party do not profess to have all the answers. The party with all the answers appears to do least well in every public consultation, something about which I think by now the very senior member for Sudbury East would take pause.

I do not say as Liberals that we have all the answers, but this throne speech sets out a number of very positive and constructive initiatives. We will soldier on. We will discharge the issues of our current agenda. We will watch with great interest not only how the official opposition, most especially, but also how our friends in the third party deal with their responsibilities in that connection.

We are in a minority Legislature, and we are going to be co-operative and consultative, as we have been over these past 10 or 11 months. I want to say for the benefit of the member for York Mills that we fear not the next consultation, we fear it not at all. We have had the recent experience of a consultation in a part of this city where the historic fortunes of the Liberal party have not been great, and we have been very encouraged by the response in that constituency

to a truly outstanding candidate running under the banner of our outstanding Premier. We fear not at all a consultation with the wonderfully generous, positive and forward-looking people of Ontario.

I invite my friends in this assembly to think very seriously before they cast a ballot in favour of the amendment standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition, because that could produce a result that would send the member for York Mills into a permanent fantasy, and exile to boot, and none of us would want to do that. I certainly want to stand for the policy outlined in the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Speaker: For the information of the members, on Tuesday, April 29, Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mr. Polsinelli, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

"To the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of the Order of St. John, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, bachelor of arts, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us."

On Wednesday, April 30, Mr. Grossman moved that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by addition of the following words:

"This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to address the most serious problems facing Ontario today, reflecting a total lack of government initiative, leadership and policy necessary to resolve these concerns, namely:

"The continuing unemployment crisis, particularly among this province's youth; the urgent need for affordable housing in this province; the preservation of Ontario's health, social and education sectors, and particularly support for hospitals, day care, services for the elderly and post-secondary institutions; the continuing problems facing farmers during these recessionary times.

"Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in the government."

6:26 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. Grossman's amendment to the motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Hennessy, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Marland, McCague, McFadden, McLean, McNeil, O'Connor, Partridge, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Runciman, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Treleaven, Timbrell, Turner.

Nays

Allen, Bossy, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaitre, Grier, Haggerty, Hart, Hayes, Henderson, Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter, Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, Offer, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Ayes 36; nays 70.

The House divided on Mr. Ward's main motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Resolved: That an humble address be presented to the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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No. 13

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Tuesday, May 13, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 13, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

REQUESTS FOR THRONE SPEECH

Mr. McNeil: Since this government came to power through alliance, the privileges of the members of the official opposition appear to be eroding out of existence. At least one other member of this opposition and I have so far found it impossible to get copies of the throne speech for distribution among our constituents.

The day after the throne speech, I made a personal request at the press office of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) for 25 copies of the document. They were promised, as is the wont of this government; but as is the practice of this government, so far there has been no action. My assistant made a similar request a week ago on behalf of another member. He was informed that the government members were still sending out copies. They had priority, and when sufficient other copies were available, we would get ours.

I sincerely hope this practice will not be repeated with today's budget speech. I realize, of course, that the Premier feels that we on this side of the House are quite familiar with the makeup of that throne speech, having written the original. However, for the record, I would like to have some copies of the Liberal efforts at plagiarism.

I trust this matter of privilege will be investigated and corrected. After all, we in this party do represent more constituencies than does either of the two parties it takes to form a government today. If this is the Premier's version of open government, I have to ask to whom the government is open and suggest that he consider a functional alternative.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Gigantes: I have a message for the government on the question of equal pay for work of equal value. In spite of the fact that I am the only member of my family with no musical talent, I am sure members will not mind if I sing it:

It is April 1986;
We want pennies from heaven.
Liberals up to their old tricks,
No pennies from heaven.
They promised equal pay just one short year
ago.

Now, my dears, what do they say?
It is a no show.

Doctors and the business crowd,
They all love merit.

But we are here to shout it loud,
"We want to share it."

So when they trot out excuses,
We'll kick their caboose and say,
"Enough is enough; we want equal pay."

DAY HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Mr. D. W. Smith: I know I cannot top that in singing, but I want to announce that I was able yesterday to attend the official opening of the day hospital program in my riding. It is a first for Lambton and we are very proud to have it there. I thank the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) for seeing fit to provide the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital with funds of \$102,000. This government is doing something for health care and we are very proud to be part of it.

GO TRANSIT

Mr. Jackson: Last October 31 in a statement to this House, the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Fulton) promised the people of Burlington an additional GO train daily, beginning early in the new year. It is now early in May of that new year and there is no additional GO train, not now and possibly not for several years, according to his ministry.

Last October the minister spoke of pressing and extensive needs in Burlington to be addressed immediately. My community sees no reason those needs should not be addressed immediately. Apparently, the government now tells the people of Burlington that a \$1.8-million expenditure on track improvements is too expensive to warrant a service which, six months ago, it agreed needed immediate action. It is true \$1.8 million is a great deal of money, but the whole GO expansion program was approved at about \$284 million.

If \$12 million is a reasonable figure for an additional two trains a day to Milton with its population of 30,000, then is \$1.8 million so unreasonable for the 116,000 people in Burlington? When this government has picked up over \$2 billion this past year in windfall revenue, is \$1.8 million so unreasonable?

No doubt we will hear hundreds of millions of dollars of promises in a couple of hours. The government has raised the question of its ability to honour its promises. After more than six months, the people of Burlington would like to know when they can expect the minister to honour his previous promises.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: For days I have been calling the Ministry of Labour the swamp. Let me give members another example.

The following letters have been addressed to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye), and we have received no answers to date: July 30, 1985; August 2, 1985; August 29, 1985; September 10, 1985; January 7, 1986; January 10, February 5, February 5, February 7, February 17, February 21, March 7, March 7, March 7, March 8, March 11, March 12, March 13 and March 20.

Everything gets fed into the swamp and nothing comes out in the form of answers.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Some of those may be answered.

Mr. Martel: Let me tell members about the questions I have raised in the House and during the minister's estimates, when he also promised responses. I asked questions regarding Joe Flexer, isocyanate, Inglis, Jaycee Screw, joint health and safety committee investigations, ministry laboratories, policy on confidentiality of medical information, Robert Hunt Corp., Ministry of Transportation and Communications, death of Alan Douglas Brown on September 26, 1985, and there are unanswered questions raised in the House, which have been in Orders and Notices since November 26 and January 20.

What does the minister have staff over there for, since he cannot answer anything?

ORANGEVILLE POLICE COMMISSION

Mr. McCague: In June 1985, the Ministry of the Solicitor General knew that an appointment to the Orangeville police commission was needed. The citizens understand the politics of filling a vacancy, but they cannot fathom a gestation period of well in excess of nine months.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO SAVINGS OFFICE

Mr. Philip: Today I will be reintroducing a bill which will allow the Province of Ontario Savings Office to make loans.

In 1921, the United Farmers of Ontario government started the Ontario savings offices to accept deposits and make loans to farmers. In 1923, the Conservative government removed the right of the savings offices to compete with the banks by making loans.

2:10 p.m.

At present, there are 21 branches of the Province of Ontario Savings Office but none in northern Ontario. In contrast to the \$655.2 million on deposit in Ontario, the Alberta Treasury branches have deposits of \$4.2 billion. In the year 1984-85, the Province of Ontario Savings Office produced a profit to the taxpayers of \$2 million, but this could easily be increased.

On January 13, 1986, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) pointed out how his father was a strong supporter of the Province of Ontario Savings Office when he was Provincial Secretary of Ontario. On November 22, the same Treasurer stated that he was committed to an improvement of these offices.

Small business people, home owners in search of reasonable mortgages and farmers would benefit by an extension of POSO. I have made the case to the Treasurer on numerous occasions that he should follow the steps of his much-respected father and reconstitute the savings office in a manner that his father's government originally intended.

HEIDEHOF HOME FOR THE AGED

Mr. Andrewes: I want to draw to the members' attention the difficult financial circumstances faced by Heidehof Home for the Aged in the city of St. Catharines. During 1985, an arbitration award increased the overall wage level of staff in the home by some 40 per cent. Even through careful scrutiny of its budget and reduced hours of work, coupled with increased per diem rates to the residents, the board of directors of the home has not been able to cope with these financial circumstances.

Thirty-two per cent of the residents of the home are funded under the extended care program, while 51 per cent of the residents qualify. The board of directors of Heidehof is concerned that the funding system for homes for the aged is not equitable, given the expectation of residents and their families to access a continuum of care.

2:14 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Andrewes: My question was of the Minister without Portfolio, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), but I see he is not yet in attendance in the Legislature. The Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) is not here, nor is the Premier. Can we expect the Minister without Portfolio?

Mr. Speaker: To whom is the member addressing his question?

Mr. Andrewes: Perhaps we can stand down my first question.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to stand down the first question?

Agreed to.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Timbrell: I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Housing to today's Orders and Notices on page 2, item 21, which refers to the second reading of Bill 78.

Can the minister advise me whether he has had time, since his exchange with the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) yesterday, to consult with the officials of his ministry as well as those people who give him his instructions in the government? Can he tell this House whether he intends to proceed with Bill 78 or whether it is his intention to withdraw the bill? If so, when will we see its successor?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I answered that question yesterday in the House. We intend to proceed with Bill 78 as it stands now.

Mr. Timbrell: Given his statement just now that he intends to proceed with Bill 78 as it stands, if I understand what he is saying, can he tell us whether it is his intention to bring forward, and if so when, amendments to implement the 11 recommendations made to him by his much-vaunted advisory committee?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The advisory committee's submission to me has been looked at in detail. If there are any amendments to be made to Bill 78, they will be made.

I see Bill 78 coming to cabinet committee by next week. I do not know how to answer the question of when it will be ready for second reading in the House. When it goes through the process of the cabinet committee and then goes to cabinet, the leaders will make arrangements to bring it into the House.

Mr. Timbrell: Judging by yesterday's Hansard and the response today, there seems to be an

answer here for everybody: for those who want the bill to proceed as is; for those who want the bill to proceed with amendments, and for those who do not want the bill to proceed and to be replaced with something else.

In every corner of the province, the minister has gone out of his way to explain the virtues of open government in consultation with the tenants and the landlords who make up his advisory committee. They have made 11 specific proposals to him to amend Bill 78. Can the minister tell us today whether it is his intention to proceed to amend Bill 78 with all the proposals submitted to him? Or is this consultation process nothing but a sham, nothing but a hollow exercise and he is going to pick and choose a few things out of the agenda they have given him?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The proposal that was submitted to me by the advisory committee was well thought out and we looked at it. There will be amendments to Bill 78. When the bill comes forward, the honourable member will see the amendments and then he will have his time to make his amendments to the bill.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question has been dealt with.

TRITIUM EXPORTS

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. Yesterday, in response to the member for York South (Mr. Rae) on the question of tritium export and sales, the minister emphasized Ontario Hydro workers' safety and the federal government's responsibility about export. He seemed to neglect the fact that Ontario Hydro is an Ontario crown corporation owned by his government. Can he tell us today his policy and the policy of his government in respect to the export of tritium by Ontario Hydro? Clearly, the tritium Ontario Hydro exports will be used either for military purposes or to displace tritium that can be used for military purposes.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I pointed out that the tritium issue was initiated for the safety of the workers at our nuclear plants so that it would be removed from the heavy water. That will not begin until next year. About a year from now, they will begin to get tritium in the clarifying of the heavy water.

I also pointed out that there would not be any on the market for another year and that it was being taken out for workers' safety. I now can tell the assembly, and I think it is very important I do so, that I also will give an undertaking that none of that tritium will be sold for other than peaceful

purposes. I give members that undertaking; it is unequivocal.

Mr. Charlton: On November 1, 1984, in a question which the minister put to the then Minister of Energy, he said: "Hydro is putting on the hard sell to make money on tritium... Hydro is reckless in this matter and so is the government in not properly controlling the situation." Does the minister not understand that even if the tritium which Ontario Hydro sells is used for peaceful, domestic purposes, it will displace tritium currently being used for those purposes, which will then become available for military purposes?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would add to the comment I have already made, that there will be no tritium supplied to replace any tritium that might be used in the United States for anything other than peaceful purposes. I propose to make that mandatory. I will make certain there will be no displacement of tritium for purposes other than peaceful ones.

Mr. Charlton: The four kilograms which Ontario Hydro will be producing each year exceeds by eight times the total amount of tritium needed for domestic purposes. Therefore, will the minister assure this House here and now that no Ontario Hydro tritium will be sold or exported for other than the very clearly defined domestic market and that the rest of the tritium will remain in storage?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I want to be very clear. Yes, I will give the member the undertaking that there will be no tritium sold for anything other than peaceful purposes and that we will make certain it will not displace other tritium. We will give that undertaking to this House, and he can be sure that is the way it will be.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question for my friend Russell Ramsay-Armstrong-Wrye, better known as the Minister of Labour, regarding Francis Spurgeon, a member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees who was working on a construction site in Oshawa and was killed by an asphalt truck on November 19, 1985.

Is the minister aware that at the inquest, held on May 7, 1986, evidence was presented that indicated the death was the result of the violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, regulation 130, for construction sites? The truck backed up without a signalman to direct it, and there was no signalman assigned to the work site. Why, when the minister's inspector wrote the

report on the order after the death, was that order also ignored?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member can say anything he wants to about me, the minister; that is fair ball. However, he should understand that the people who are working at the Ministry of Labour and in the occupational health and safety division are just as dedicated as he is himself, as I am or as are the many dedicated health and safety worker representatives.

I do not have the specifics of the case. Obviously, I will look into them and I will see the details from the inquest, which, according to the honourable member's question, appears to have taken place last week. I will see the transcript, if necessary, and I will look into the case and report back to the member.

Mr. Martel: Since the letter I am quoting from went to the minister on May 9 from CUPE, I talk about the swamp with reason. It got lost too.

Why did the inspectors not follow up on the compliance of this order, and why is it still the practice to spread asphalt without a signalman assigned to direct trucks onsite when we know there can be a repeat? If this man got killed that way and if this is going on province-wide, could we not have another fatality from violating his act?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Very clearly, the matter the member raises—and I am not trying to make light of it—is very serious. I will look into it immediately. There are 49 minutes left in the question period, and if I can have an answer before then, I will give the member an answer.

Mr. Martel: Good. When he is asking his staff, perhaps they could look up the answer to one final supplementary so he can provide that for us as well. Is he going to prosecute Bennet Construction Co., or is he simply going to let it get away with murder as well?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member has had a copy of our prosecution policy for some period of time now. I would have thought he would have read it. The matter of prosecution is not a decision that is taken by a minister. It is a decision that is taken ultimately, in our case, in consultation with the deputy minister and the executive director and, indeed, upon legal advice, including advice, if necessary, from the crown law office.

It should be understood, and I would have thought the member would have understood, that very often the evidence that comes out at an inquest is very important in a decision about whether to prosecute. The member is obviously

aware that we have a one-year period from the date of the alleged offence in which we can prosecute. That would allow us until November 1986. The inquest was on last week. When the inquest is completed, the legal branch will, as it often does, review the evidence that came out at the inquest and a decision will be made on that basis.

SENIOR CITIZENS' SERVICES

Mr. Andrewes: My question is to the Minister without Portfolio, the member for London North, and it concerns care for the elderly, a matter this minister has been studying for some 10 months.

A recent article in the *Hamilton Spectator* indicated that fewer than one per cent of the acute care hospital beds were available for elective surgery and emergency treatment in that city, rather than a desired 15 per cent, and that 222 elderly people in the region were waiting in hospital for long-term care.

What has the minister done to convince his colleagues to remedy this very risky and very serious situation?

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: The honourable member and some of his colleagues are, interestingly enough, starting to show some interest in the affairs of seniors in our province. I remind the members opposite this is the 95th day we have been sitting here as a government and only in the past four or five days have they been concerned enough to ask any questions.

I have been working very closely with my colleagues the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) regarding all aspects of service to seniors. There is no question that in some municipalities there is a crying need. I submit that part of that need comes from the system being mismanaged in the past. When members see the report we will be tabling very soon on services for seniors, they will realize we do have some suggestions for improvement.

Mr. Andrewes: The minister just walked into it. If I were looking for a supercilious and frivolous answer to a very serious question, I could have asked one of the other members of the cabinet who are more active in that capacity.

Dr. Robert Kirby, executive director of the Hamilton District Health Council, indicated that the needs for extended care beds have not changed for one year but that the government has failed to fund these beds. This is one of many accessibility problems we will be bringing to the

attention of the government. What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: I have already indicated I will be presenting a white paper; the date of that is not too far away. The paper, along with the ongoing consultative process we have established over here—something that did not exist with the previous government—will solve many of these problems.

Mr. Andrewes: If the minister is looking for a white paper and a consultative process, here is one put out by our caucus some six weeks ago. We have been waiting 10 months for the minister's white paper and we are still waiting.

Recently, an elderly woman by the name of Mrs. Katrina Zilienski was discharged from St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins and placed in a nursing home in Haileybury, about 200 kilometres away. She is one of 38 cases in Timmins alone. In the Ottawa Civic Hospital, 102 chronic care patients occupy acute care beds while awaiting placement. In the Niagara region, 487 people are on a waiting list for extended care beds. Why does the minister continue to create this severe accessibility problem and aggravate human suffering by delaying the funding for nursing home beds that were allocated and announced more than a year ago?

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: If the member is referring to the allocation his government made reference to, the task of the actual allocation is now within our domain. The person to whom he might want to address the question in part might be the Minister of Health. However, in his absence, as I indicated earlier, I submit that we are very much aware of the shortcomings within the system the previous government developed over 42 years and will do everything humanly possible to correct them.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Andrewes: Is that what the minister is going to tell those people lying in those beds and their families?

Hon. Mr. Van Horne: I might tell them who is responsible.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind members again that they are wasting the time of other members who have questions.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Timbrell: I would like to come back to the Minister of Housing, the minister responsible for rent review. Now that he has cleared up, I hope for the last time, the confusion that has reigned since December, when he announced

Bills 78 and 79, and has told us we are going to proceed with Bill 78 with amendments, can he assure this House that those amendments will be introduced in sufficient time to allow for full debate of the bill in this chamber and then full consideration, including public hearings, in committee before the House rises for the summer recess? In this way, almost one million tenant families in Ontario will have ended once and for all the confusion that began the day he became minister and had to refer to some policy book to tell the press and the public what his policy was.

Hon. Mr. Curling: If the honourable member attended the House more often, he would get the sequence of what is going on. It is the responsibility of every elected member to be in attendance, and I have been.

Let me tell the member again that the bill will be introduced in time. We hope his party does not use any delaying tactics. The bill will be there for public input, the member's input and that of the third party.

We will have an open government. There is no confusion. In fact, when I introduced the bill and brought the tenants and the landlords together, some sanity came to this whole thing.

Mr. Timbrell: That reminds me of the old expression about the patients with the keys running the institution, if the minister is talking about sanity.

The fact is that in January, before this House rose, and in February, I communicated to his House leader our willingness to deal with Bill 78 to serve the tenants of this province. It was the minister who asked that the bill be put off, not the opposition parties. He should not try to slough off his responsibility.

Is the minister going to proceed with all the recommendations made to him by his advisory committee? Is he going to implement every one of the 11 recommendations so we can assure our constituents, 20,000 in my riding alone, that we know what his policy is and can tell them how to deal with rent increases and what is going to happen to them? What will his policy be?

Hon. Mr. Curling: This is the first time I would say the honourable member is right. Yes, we did ask to postpone the bill because we had had good input from landlords and tenants through their proposals. That is the reason we postponed it.

We knew we were going to put a very careful policy in place so that when it came before the members, they would have something substantial to debate. The member has not made any input into this. We hope that between now and

the time the House rises, the member will give some input.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) control themselves?

On previous occasions I have reminded members of standing order 19(a). Please address your questions and responses to the chair. I see a lot of finger-pointing across the floor. It would be much better if you addressed your questions and pointed at the Speaker.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment concerning the very serious revelations about the continuing degradation of the Niagara River. The minister has previously assured this House that he would not sign an agreement with respect to cleaning up the Niagara River if it did not contain assurances that there would be a timetable to end the discharges and that the toxic dumps would be removed.

Can the minister confirm that, despite whatever his federal counterpart may have to say about him these days, he will not sign an agreement merely for the sake of having an agreement and providing a photo opportunity for federal officials?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The negotiations, as the member is likely aware, have been going on for several months, and four parties have been involved in the negotiations at the federal and provincial levels here and at the state and national levels there.

I have indicated consistently that the position of Ontario is based upon the recommendations of the report of the Niagara River Toxics Committee. First, there should be a scheduled reduction of pollution into the Niagara River; second, there should be extensive monitoring, and third, there should be provision for the excavation of those toxic waste sites immediately adjacent to the river.

In all good conscience, I could not sign any agreement on behalf of the people of this province that did not contain those provisions.

Mrs. Grier: The minister has made his position plain. However, since it is obvious the federal government is willing to sign any agreement, no matter how weak, does the minister not think that perhaps the time has come for independent action by Ontario? Will the minister consider launching a legal action against the companies in the United States for damages

for the pollution they have caused to our environment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Whenever there is an opportunity to enter into the court system, where we can be effective, this ministry is prepared to do so. The member may be aware that we have an intervention at the present time into the Hyde Park cleanup on behalf of the owners of that particular company. We are intervening in that. The member will be aware that we have made a legal intervention in the case of the Niagara Falls, New York, waste water plant. We appealed the S-area case.

In any of these specific instances where Ontario can productively enter into the court system to ensure that we get by legal means what may not be obtainable by political means, we are prepared to do that.

Mrs. Grier: I am not sure the minister understands my question—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry about that. However, you did have a question and a supplementary. I am sure you will have another opportunity to question the minister further. New question; the member for Brantford.

Mr. Gillies: My question is—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry; I missed the member for Grey.

RED MEAT PLAN

Mr. McKessock: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It is my understanding that the tripartite—

Mr. Pope: He is not here.

Ms. Fish: Who's on first?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will answer the question.

Mr. O'Connor: He is out getting the answer.

An hon. member: He is out standing in his field.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Just answer the question. You have the note.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind the members that according to the recently passed standing orders, and the standing orders that have been on the books for some time, questions must be taken in rotation.

Mr. McKessock: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It is my understanding that the tripartite stabilization program for farmers in Canada and Ontario came into effect as of January 1, 1986. It is also my understanding that applications under this pro-

gram are being accepted until the end of next month, June 30. Whose responsibility is it to advertise this program? I am not sure all farmers are aware of the procedures for application.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Application forms were mailed directly from Ottawa last week to the pork producers who received the retroactive payments for 1985 and to all those meat producers who were on the red meat plan. I hope application forms will also be available in the extension branch offices throughout Ontario and in the Farm Credit Corp. offices within the next two weeks. We also have advertised the program since the change of government in a very widely accepted publication put out by this ministry. That publication is OMAF News. We are going to be doing a series in OMAF News about stabilization. There is no reason the producers should not be aware of the stabilization program that is in effect.

Mr. McKessock: Can the minister tell us how many products in Ontario are going to be covered by the tripartite stabilization program? If the farmers miss the June 30 deadline, what will be their next opportunity to make application for the program?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: There is a program in effect for slaughter cattle, for the cow-calf operators, for the pork producers, including the weaners, and for lambs. There have been preliminary discussions for the backgrounder cattle; in other words, the feeder and stocker cattle. I hope we will have a program in place some time this year.

In answer to the second part of the question, yes, I strongly advise the producers to enrol immediately. If they fail to enrol by the end of June, there is a fairly stiff penalty.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Gillies: That was most enlightening.

My question is for the get-tough Minister of Labour. Last November, when the minister introduced his new "comply or get prosecuted" order, he said he expected to see a good number of additional prosecutions in the area of occupational health and safety. In fact, from the time that announcement was made until April 1, 1986, there were 84 prosecutions; in the same period last year, there were 98.

Will the minister tell us why his rhetoric is so at variance with the facts as to jeopardize his precious credibility?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The ignorance of the honourable member is astounding. The fact of

the matter is, and I thought the member would know this fundamental fact, the prosecutions that come forward in the early days are prosecution requests which are delayed from the days before the new orders policy came into effect. Having had the effect of the new orders policy and the prosecutions that flowed from those orders, such as prosecutions for noncompliance, only now and in the months to come will the member see the true effect of the new orders policy in terms of prosecutions.

I am confident that when the numbers come forward in the estimates of the ministry this year—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Gillies: It is apparent that the arrogance of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is creeping rapidly through this cabinet. I say to the minister, who has been minister since July, 1985 and not since November 1985, when he made his announcement, it appears that for six months he did not know he was going to bring in this new policy.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Mr. Gillies: My supplementary question is—

Mr. Speaker: I thought that was the supplementary.

Mr. Gillies: —in regard to one such case. The minister was in the House yesterday expecting us to pat him on the back for filing notice of prosecution with the Metro Toronto works department for the sewage treatment plant. Then he went out into the hallway and told the media he was going to delay laying charges. The minister has failed to address the question of prosecution of that plant. When is he going to stop the rhetoric and act in regard to that sewage treatment plant?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Obviously, and unfortunately and regrettably, the member's ability to review policy of this ministry stops in terms of reading the public press. I am aware that the Toronto Sun this morning reported there would be a delay in prosecution while we talked with the company. I want to reiterate very briefly what I said yesterday, that the discussions with the company are about earlier compliance. I share with the member the concern he has about early compliance. It has absolutely nothing to do with possible prosecution, notice of which was given on Saturday.

There is one other change between this government and the previous government. Under the previous government the order would have been simply reissued; this government intends a

possible prosecution as the result of noncompliance.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Minister of Housing, one which he failed to answer yesterday. I hope I will be able to get an answer today. Yesterday I was able to extract from the minister that a large number of tenants are excluded from the protection of Bill 11, namely, those on whose buildings demolition permits had already been issued. What does he intend to do to protect those tenants from losing the roofs over their heads?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Sometimes members who are looking for an answer do not want to accept the answer I give, which is the correct answer.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thank members very much. I said those buildings that had been issued demolition permits would not be included under Bill 11.

Mr. Philip: Is the minister saying that nothing will be done for all those tenants and that they will be out on the street? Does the minister not feel somewhat responsible that it has taken him 10 months to introduce demolition controls in Bill 11, the very controls his own leader was able to introduce in a private member's bill two years ago? Will the minister not agree at least to introduce a freeze on all demolitions until such time as his bill can be amended and corrected to include some retroactive component so those people will not lose their homes as a result of his negligence?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I share the honourable member's concern. The new Rental Housing Protection Act was brought in to protect not only those people subject to eviction because of demolition, extensive renovations or conversions to condominiums; it is wider policy legislation than that. I am very concerned about those people. We had hoped to bring in that legislation early enough to protect all, but the bill is not retroactive. I share the member's concern, but I do not think there is very much we can do at this stage.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I have had numerous contacts from firms in my riding that are having a great deal of difficulty with the acquisition of liability insurance. One firm, by

the name of Lamsar Mechanical, has had a 1,300 per cent increase in its premiums. Sarnia Tank and Vessel has had an increase in annual premium from \$1,500 to \$30,000, in spite of the fact that this firm has a 21-year accident-free record. Is the ministry prepared to provide financial assistance to some of these private corporations that are attempting to come to grips with the situation and to provide insurance to the corporations under the circumstances I have identified?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The Slater report recognizes many of the same issues the member has just mentioned. We are looking at some of the recommendations and the alternatives to see how this government can possibly assist people such as those the member has mentioned.

Mr. Brandt: I appreciate the mention of the Slater report by the honourable minister. Did he, as the representative of industry in this province, make representation to the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) to request such financial assistance in the budget we are going to hear within the next couple of hours?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The Treasurer is aware of some of the—

Mr. Mancini: What kind of assistance? What a silly question.

Mr. Brandt: What kind of stupid remark is that?

Mr. Andrewes: He has forgotten all about small businesses.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Interjections are out of order.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The Treasurer is aware of the many problems some of these businesses have; those have been relayed to him. We are still examining the Slater report to see how we can remedy some of them.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Mr. Grande: My question is for the Minister of Housing. Can the minister inform the House where the tenants at 261 Vaughan Road in my riding stand in regard to Bill 11? These tenants were served eviction notices. The landlord has received approval to renovate from the city of York. They went to court on April 18, but the judge has postponed the decision, waiting to see what the government is going to do. Can the minister tell us where these tenants stand?

Hon. Mr. Curling: If the judge is waiting for the action this government is going to take in

regard to demolitions or renovations, he has seen it now. We are going to take a very strong stand in preserving any affordable rental stock which might be lost to demolition or to conversion. I think the judge has enough evidence on where we are going to go to make his decision.

Mr. Grande: As demonstrated by the previous question from the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip), it is obvious these tenants also stand out in the street in the dark, according to what the minister is suggesting. Because these tenants were rebuffed by the minister in February, when they came to him with the specific concerns they had about losing their homes, can he inform us where Mrs. Mundy, who is working four hours a day, earning \$5 an hour and paying \$285 a month—which means 70 per cent of her money goes for rental accommodation—is going to find accommodation in a market that demands \$600 to \$700 a month?

Hon. Mr. Curling: There are a number of people in those situations. I sympathize with that condition. We brought in the new Rental Housing Protection Act so that situations such as these do not continue. This was not happening yesterday, nor the day before, nor five months ago. It has been happening for years and no action was taken on the matter.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is very difficult to hear the questions and the responses. I thought the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) got us off on the right key today.

ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Mr. McFadden: I will direct a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. In the speech from the throne, the government set out, as one of its policy goals for our colleges and universities, the avoidance of unnecessary program duplication. In view of the concerns expressed by the universities, will the minister define for this House what the government means by "unnecessary program duplication"?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad to see that my friend the member for Eglinton is continuing down the definition trail. He got through a few terms a couple of weeks ago, and I think we had a definition; today's definition is "unnecessary duplication." Let me answer by way of example.

Very recently, on or about March 28, our ministry and this government approved an allocation to the University of Toronto to purchase a supercomputer. The government

contribution to that facility is some \$10 million. The costs of these kinds of technologies cannot be allocated to every single institution, although many institutions in this province will make use of them.

That is an example of where the government has identified a priority and found a way to involve most of our institutions in relation to that priority so that we will not have unnecessary duplication.

Mr. McFadden: I asked the minister for a definition since he is the minister of a learned portfolio. The October budget called for the transfer of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to the University of Toronto on the grounds of the elimination of duplication. Since the hearings of the standing committee on general government, day after day throughout this province, have revealed that this stated rationale for the transfer of OISE was ill founded, fallacious and even false, will the minister assure the House that the proposal contained in the speech from the throne will not be implemented in such a misguided and misconceived manner?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I enjoyed the definition. I enjoyed the songs today. We could have a spelling bee here today if it were the view of the member for Eglinton that we should do that. I am not sure what proposal in the speech from the throne he is talking about.

He raises the question of OISE and bringing those two very respected institutions together. He raised that very question with me in the standing committee on general government, and he asked a question about duplication. I said at that time, and I say to the member now, that we will be avoiding duplication in that instance but we will be accomplishing far more than the avoidance of duplication; we will be joining the energies of two very respected institutions.

It is our view, and it is a matter of government policy, that those institutions, working together under the terms of a union that are satisfactory to both, will be healthy for the post-secondary system in general and will be of great benefit to the education community in Ontario in general, at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels. I think my friend the member for Eglinton is slowly being convinced that that view is the appropriate one.

ACCESS TO ABORTION COMMITTEES

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the Attorney General and the minister responsible for women's issues. Will the minister explain why his government is proceeding with the persecu-

tion by prosecution of doctors who are providing abortion services in clinics instead of fulfilling the personal commitment of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who promised that each woman would have full and equal access to therapeutic abortions in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the honourable member for the topical question. Let me say that my obligation as Attorney General is to enforce the Criminal Code in those cases where it is brought to our attention by the police that there are reasonable and probable grounds to launch a prosecution. I intend to carry forward that duty in the best way I can. Any other questions are for the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston).

Ms. Gigantes: As the minister responsible for women's issues, this minister has more responsibilities than simply the legal questions involved. What measures beyond the task forcing yet again of this issue is this government going to take to provide fairness and equity for women who need abortions in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not see any conflict between my role as Attorney General and my role as minister responsible for women's issues. In the Ontario women's directorate, we have an elaborate series of programs designed to deal with a wide range of problems affecting women in the province. The member has access to them. If there are any particularities on which she thinks suggestions can be made for improvement, I will be delighted to have them, either first hand here today or in some other way.

Mr. Speaker: New question; the member for Durham-York.

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell).

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. The member for York East.

3 p.m.

TORONTO BRICKWORKS

Ms. Hart: My question is directed to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture.

Some hon. members: Which one?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Hart: My question relates to the Don Valley brickworks in the riding of York East. Many of us in that riding are very interested in the future of that development. Can the minister tell us the status of the ministry's involvement in what is for us a most important environmental issue?

Hon. Ms. Munro: Since the fall of 1985, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has been involved in trying to look at the heritage aspects of the Don Valley brickyards. Initially in the fall of 1985, we placed a stop order on the construction by Torvalley Associates. Since then we have moved to investigate a designation through the Ontario Heritage Act. We have involved all concerned bodies, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Friends of the Valley, the local universities and on and on.

This ministry believes the designation will protect the historical aspect of the brickyards, the north slope specifically.

Ms. Hart: Can the minister tell us why the most unusual step of designating a piece of land for heritage preservation was taken with respect to the Don Valley Brickworks?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I offer this gavel to any member who would like to come up and listen from here.

Hon. Ms. Munro: I think I referred to all the interested parties that had expressed an interest in the historical and archeological significance of the land and to our ministry agency, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, which is charged with the responsibility of protecting our heritage.

We are designating the north slope of the Don Valley brickyard. We have had good advice, not only from the foundation but from the University of Toronto and the International Union for Quaternary Research that there is substantial value to the geological and historical features. Torvalley is appealing the case before the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. We expect the appeal will be turned down. If it is, we expect the Ontario Heritage Foundation will continue to work at designating the property.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I will wait patiently.

GRAIN ELEVATOR OPERATORS

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Will he explain why some farmer elevator operators have been paid for corn grown on their own farms and lost in the McKinlay bankruptcy while others in the same position have not?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: If a grain elevator operator is also a producer and can prove that the grain that

went into his elevator was his own, then he becomes eligible in the same way as any other producer. However, if it is stored grain from another producer, then it is a different story. If he could prove it was his production, he is eligible.

Mr. Stevenson: A number of producers have been treated extremely unfairly. Am I to understand that if the farmers who have not been paid become sleazy businessmen and declare bankruptcy in their own elevator operations, then they will be compensated for the grain they have not been paid for at this date?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The member would have to send me over the specific case. I do not believe that to be the fact whatsoever. This ministry does not bring in programs that make people become sleazy. I do not accept there are sleazy operators out there.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I could recess for five minutes, but then the clock would stop, so I will not.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology in regard to some statements made at the Canadian Pacific annual meeting late last week. Chief executive William Stinson singled out Algoma Steel Corp. Ltd. as an early candidate for write-downs. He went on to note that major restructuring is planned at Algoma Steel. He also stated CP intends to reduce its exposure to commodity price cycles and to expand outside Canada.

Has the minister investigated Canadian Pacific's intentions with respect to long-term investment or disinvestment in Algoma Steel and the potential effects on the long-term viability of this steel plant? What action is his ministry taking in regard to the employees and communities of Sault Ste. Marie and Canadian Pacific's stated intentions?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: As the member knows, I set up a meeting about a week ago for him, for myself and for some of our ministry officials. That was one of the matters brought to our attention by the member and discussed. It is something we are checking into.

Mr. Wildman: In view of the minister's interest, does he agree that a company such as Canadian Pacific, which has gained a great deal of profit through the exploitation of the resources of northern Ontario and the whole province, owes something more to the community than the

kind of statement made to the employees of Algoma Ore division in Wawa this morning? The company informed the workers there were only two choices for that operation: either complete shutdown and the layoff of all employees, with devastating effect to the town of Wawa, or cutting of the capacity by one half and laying off 175 workers.

What does the minister believe corporations such as Canadian Pacific and Algoma Steel owe the communities that have provided them with so much wealth over the years? What is this government going to do to prevent this kind of disadvantage in northern Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Just as the member has expressed concern, we also have many concerns in this area. When the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) met with us last week, he expressed somewhat those same concerns. The company certainly has an obligation.

PRISON FACILITIES

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Correctional Services. Will the minister inform the House about the status of the secure young offenders facility announced for the Brockville vicinity almost one year ago?

Hon. Mr. Keyes: At present, the status is no different from its status exactly one year ago. We still have not secured funding for the structure. There has been no direction taken with regard to that facility that would give the member any cause for concern about its location.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Runciman: Yesterday I informed the House that a badly defeated Liberal candidate was announcing government grants in my riding, an unprecedented example of shabby, shoddy, cheap politics.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You may or may not get in your supplementary.

Mr. Runciman: Will the minister confirm that he is engaged in the same kind of cheap political game in respect to this facility and that the only reason for the foot-dragging is the fact that the riding is not held by a Liberal?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Because of the noise, I do not know whether the minister heard the question.

Hon. Mr. Keyes: I have reasonably good hearing, but with so many asses braying, I could not quite make out the question.

ADOPTION LEAVE

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Recently, we learned from Lois Sweet's column in the Toronto Star of April 30 that an Ontario working couple, ready and willing to adopt an older child, was unable to do so because no adoption leave is provided in Ontario law. When is the minister going to bring in legislation to plug this gap and at least put adopting parents on an equal footing with natural parents, who are entitled to 17 weeks' maternity leave under the Employment Standards Act?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member raises an excellent point and a matter that is of concern to the government. We are looking at a series of amendments to the Employment Standards Act. As I am sure the member knows, there are a number of areas that need to be changed and improved, and we would like to bring them forward as a comprehensive package. I can assure the member that we are looking very actively at making adoption leave part of that package.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Jackson: On the occasion of today's budget announcement, I have petitions from more than 3,000 constituents from Burlington South:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

I hope the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will take note of that in the next two hours.

Mr. Wildman: In the same vein, I wish to table a petition that reads as follows—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the members please allow the member presenting the petition to be heard?

Mr. Wildman: "To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

I hope this will finally end the differential between northern and southern Ontario.

Mr. Eves: I have before me a petition signed by constituents of Parry Sound riding, which reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

I am sure the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will substantially reduce gasoline taxes in his budget today, especially in the light of his acknowledged \$2-billion windfall in revenue.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a number of petitions from the constituency of the good riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, which read as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We request the government of Ontario to reduce gasoline tax by 1.1 cents a litre from 8.3 cents a litre to 7.2 cents a litre immediately and to phase in further reductions over three years to 5.4 cents a litre by 1989."

The budget later today will be a perfect time to take immediate action.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Ferraro: I wish to table a petition signed by 60 people, mostly from my riding, which reads:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

Mr. Shymko: I have a similar petition:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

Mr. Ward: I have a petition signed by 110 constituents:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

SAVINGS OFFICE ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 17, An Act respecting the Province of Ontario Savings Office.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: I hope this bill will be adopted in the budget by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) in the name of his father, who first endorsed the bill in 1921. The bill provides for an expanded Province of Ontario Savings Office with the power to make loans and offer other financial services in competition with the banks in this province.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 30(a), I have been informed that the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is dissatisfied with the response from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye). The matter will be dealt with on Thursday evening at 6:30.

As has been previously arranged, before I call for orders of the day, I do now leave the chair and the House will resume at approximately 4 p.m.

The House recessed at 3:20 p.m.

4 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Peterson, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker: As has been the custom, the Treasurer has requested that all members receive a copy of the budget prior to his speech. I ask the indulgence of the House while the pages distribute copies of the budget.

BUDGET STATEMENT

Hon. Mr. Nixon: While the pages are completing the distribution, I thought I might say a word to the House about the assistance I received in preparing the budget.

I want to acknowledge Deputy Minister Brock Smith and Assistant Deputy Minister Peter Sadlier-Brown, the budget chief, who are well known to people in this House, for their assistance to me in the budget consultation process and during the period when the budget was being put together.

I also want to express my appreciation to my own staff, particularly Barbara Sullivan and Brock Armstrong, for their assistance, kindness and friendship during these weeks of consultation and hard work.

I also appreciated the submissions from the many organizations and individuals who came to my office for consultations about the budget and who have spoken to me in many parts of the province.

I want to assure all members of the House that this beautiful podium that has been provided for seat 6 this afternoon was not my idea, but it is an excellent addition to the traditions of the House. Maybe it will be available to any member when he or she wants to make a presentation that has to be supported by what one would call copious notes.

With that, I am pleased to present my second budget to the Legislature. It represents a continuation of the themes I presented to the House last October. It is a statement of the current economic outlook, a commitment to action and an expression of our philosophy on public finance.

Let me open on a positive note by reporting that the outlook for Ontario's economy has improved significantly since my last budget. Part of this improvement is due to various external factors, such as an exchange rate that favours Ontario exports, falling interest rates and lower oil prices. Part of it is due to a growing recognition of Ontario's fundamental strengths,

which make it an attractive place in which to invest.

We are close to North America's major markets. We have a highly educated, highly skilled and highly motivated work force. We have access to the latest technologies and the knowhow to adopt those technologies to create local opportunities. We have competitive wage rates and labour legislation that guarantees fair compensation and fair treatment in the work place. Recent major investments by the automotive and other industries are a measure of these strengths.

Unfortunately, I must also report the obvious: Not all regions, industries and groups of people are sharing in the general prosperity. Many Ontario farmers are experiencing the worst conditions since the 1930s; low commodity prices have dramatically reduced farm incomes. The Ontario mining industry is struggling to survive a severe and prolonged downturn in metal prices. Some parts of northern and eastern Ontario, and some single-industry communities, are enduring severe economic hardships. In many parts of the province we are seeing continuing high levels of unemployment.

This budget responds to the individuals, regions and industries that need immediate help. But it offers something more: a series of concrete incentives to innovation and entrepreneurship—the forces that are propelling Ontario into tomorrow's advanced industrial economy.

Underlying this approach is our conviction that the surest route to continuing prosperity is a combination of good business and businesslike government. The private sector's job is to create a competitive economy. The role of government is to help Ontario business get on with that job and to manage the province's own affairs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. This will be reflected in a move towards pay-as-you-go fiscal management, aimed at balancing operating expenditures with current revenues.

In addition, I will be announcing important changes to the way Ontario manages its capital spending. A central feature of the new management system will be a capital account from which each ministry's capital requirements will be met. Because the money will be allocated according to multi-year spending plans, each ministry will be able to manage with a degree of certainty never before possible.

We believe our new approach will be a fairer, more effective way of managing government expenditures. It is false economy to try to balance budgets by ignoring society's real needs. The

restraint programs of the past decade have not reduced the real deficit, because some deficits do not show up on government balance sheets. Instead, they show up in the form of waiting lists for hospital beds, rows of portable classrooms, neglected universities and bumpy roads. We will face these problems directly while retaining our framework of fiscal responsibility.

Our social programs are an integral part of the wealth creation process. They are not add-ons that can be trimmed or scrapped according to the prevailing economic fashion. We need a healthy economy to pay for social programs; but social programs, in turn, help to build a healthy economy, by helping people adapt to the dislocations that economic progress sometimes creates.

4:10 p.m.

This is a budget that combines social concern with common sense. Under the leadership of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the government's goal is to sustain the upsurge in investment, job creation and economic growth that now characterizes the Ontario economy and to build a more reliable and sensitive spectrum of social programs.

Ontario's economy is expected to grow in real terms this year by 4.2 per cent. Inflation is forecast at 3.8 per cent—a long way below the double-digit rates of the early part of this decade. We expect to see 175,000 new jobs created in Ontario this year, and the unemployment rate is expected to average 6.9 per cent.

People and businesses are continuing to spend. Retail sales are expected to grow by 8.1 per cent this year, while investment will increase by 10.3 per cent. This vote of confidence by consumers and investors will receive some added stimulus from the recent decline in oil prices. Ontario's total crude oil bill in 1986 will be about \$2.5 billion less than it was last year. However, we are aware of the damaging consequences of a sudden drop in oil prices to many regions of the country and some Ontario industries and workers, most notably Sault Ste. Marie.

Lower inflation is leading to lower interest rates. This is obviously good news for Ontario's economy, especially for the housing and construction sectors. This year, 68,000 housing starts in Ontario are forecast; that would make it the best year since 1978 for residential construction.

This strong economic climate gives us the opportunity to build the foundations of continued prosperity. We are determined that Ontario industry remains competitive in world markets. That means investing in the latest technology to

produce better products and selling them more aggressively around the world. Many Ontario companies are doing that already. Our industries are investing billions of dollars to equip themselves for tomorrow's competitive challenges.

Despite this encouraging overall investment performance, many sectors of Ontario industry are less productive and efficient than their competitors abroad. In general, Ontario industry has been slow to take advantage of the revolution in technology which encourages flexible manufacturing and just-in-time production techniques. With notable exceptions, such as our automobile, auto parts and steel industries, manufacturing productivity in Ontario is lower than in the United States. Our current competitive advantage in manufactured goods is less a tribute to our efficiency than to the value of the Canadian dollar.

Improving productivity is mainly the responsibility of the private sector, but there is an important supporting role for government to play. That is why the Ontario government can and will promote technological innovation by strengthening the links between the private sector and Ontario's universities; support new and growing companies, which generate most of the new jobs; encourage better training and retraining to build tomorrow's skills in today's work place, and promote excellence in schools, colleges and universities.

Ontario is also participating in preparations for the Canada-US bilateral trade negotiations. We believe that good trade relations with the US are vital. Our objective is to secure and enhance access to American markets; but, in doing so, we continue to be concerned about the price Canadians may be asked to pay to achieve these objectives. We insist that Canada maintain its economic and political sovereignty. This includes the ability to have a flexible exchange-rate policy, to pursue necessary regional and industrial development policies, to preserve our social programs, to protect and nurture our cultural industries, to recognize the unique problems of the agricultural sector and to maintain existing trade arrangements such as the auto pact.

When a company invests in new plant or equipment, it buys the latest, most productive technology. That is why the level of capital investment is an important measure of our ability to compete internationally. By this yardstick, Ontario is doing well. The post-recession increase in capital spending in Ontario is still in full swing, but unless we invest even more in new technology, we will not be able to maintain our

current level of competitiveness. We cannot afford to underestimate the skills and sophistication of such new players in the global trading arena as Brazil, Singapore, Hong Kong and Korea. We must also outperform our major competitors among the industrial countries, because we have some catching up to do.

As part of this strategy, the government has already announced the establishment of a council, chaired by the Premier, to direct a \$1-billion technology fund for the next decade. The technology fund will support a wide variety of initiatives and joint ventures, some of them involving partnerships with the federal government, universities and the private sector. This budget sets aside \$100 million this year as our initial contribution towards these initiatives.

Small business is the most dynamic component of the private sector and creates most of Ontario's new jobs. More than one half of the new jobs created in Ontario over the next five years will come from businesses that do not now exist. The throne speech announced programs to support growing Ontario companies. In addition, the Ontario Development Corp. will be reorganized to improve the delivery of assistance to small business.

The ODC will be expanded to include a new ventures program, which will provide loan guarantees of up to \$15,000 to newly established businesses, along with advice and counsel to new entrepreneurs. A new program, Innovation Ontario, will provide pre-venture capital assistance to small businesses in the high-technology field. It will also provide assistance for licensing and joint ventures and for firms developing technology-intensive products purchased by all levels of government.

To carry out its expanded mandate, the ODC budget will be increased by \$10 million this year. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) will be announcing further details.

Most of Ontario's new businesses, and most of the new jobs, are generated in the service sector. To recognize the growing importance of this sector, we are broadening our small business development corporations program so that companies offering certain support services to business will become eligible for SBDC incentives. This will ensure more effective use of the \$30 million that has been budgeted for this program in 1986-87.

Last October we began a major study of the service sector and its impact on the Ontario economy. An interim report is included in the

budget papers and the final report is expected to recommend further policy initiatives.

Tourism is one of Ontario's most important service industries. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is preparing a strategic plan to assess where further development of the tourism industry is needed. In the meantime, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Eakins) has launched a new marketing campaign to attract visitors to the province and is developing a hospitality awareness program to encourage repeat visits to Ontario. I am providing \$10 million in new funding for these and other tourism initiatives in addition to \$2.8 million in capital assistance for new hospitality training facilities. These amounts are supplementary to the \$12 million already budgeted this year for investment in tourism facilities in conjunction with the federal government.

I believe employee share ownership plans can foster a stronger partnership between employers and employees by enabling employees to participate directly in the benefits of business growth. For small and medium-sized businesses, they can provide a new and welcome source of equity capital.

I am proposing measures to make it easier for employees to participate in these plans and to encourage employers to establish them. To encourage employee participation, the province will provide employees of small and medium-sized Ontario businesses with a 15 per cent tax credit on up to \$2,000 of annual purchases of newly issued shares of their employers' corporations. To encourage businesses to establish employee share ownership plans, the government will compensate them for one third of the cost of setting up a plan to a maximum of \$10,000.

I expect to have Ontario's program in place for 1987. In the meantime, I believe the proposal would benefit from the advice and counsel of concerned organizations and members of the public.

4:20 p.m.

I also believe there are opportunities to make greater use of the income tax provisions for profit-sharing arrangements to support employee share ownership. My staff will be working with federal officials to prepare a proposal.

On-the-job training and skills development is one of the essential building blocks of economic growth. This area is so important, and has been so neglected, that we are doubling the province's allocation for skills training and upgrading programs to \$100 million. Our goal is to expand

and reshape the system so that training and skills development become a normal and continuing part of the work experience. Our programs will address the special needs of women, minorities, older workers and young people and will place more emphasis on helping smaller companies to set up training programs of their own.

The allocation for training and employment programs for youth will be continued at the 1985-86 level of \$175 million. This brings our total funding for skills development, training and employment programs to \$275 million. The Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Sorbara) will be announcing details of these programs.

Our economic future cannot be secured without a strong and vital education system. In my last budget, I increased basic operating grants for universities and colleges of applied arts and technology for 1986-87 by four per cent and provided \$80 million for colleges and universities excellence funds. Together they raise the overall increase in operating and capital grants to our post-secondary institutions by eight per cent this year. The excellence funds provide for upgrading of library and instructional equipment, research support and a multi-year program of faculty renewal to support 500 new faculty positions in Ontario universities.

Universities will also be major beneficiaries of a technology fund; the fiscal plan for 1986-87 provides \$15 million to revitalize and strengthen Ontario's applied research capacity. The criteria for the university research incentive fund will be expanded to encourage co-operative research projects with industry, and matching grants will be improved to a one-for-one basis.

Last year I established an education capital fund for 1986. In addition to regular capital funding of \$67.2 million, the fund provides \$25 million to reduce the backlog of school board capital requirements. This funding has been fully committed and many of the projects are well under way.

TVOntario will be given special funding for more curriculum-based science programming in co-operation with the private-sector production industry in Ontario.

The measures introduced last year to strengthen the province's partnership with local governments have given municipalities a greater degree of certainty in planning for the provision of local services. As part of our continuing efforts to strengthen our partnership with local governments, the basic funding increases for school boards, municipalities, hospitals, universities and colleges will be announced by November 1. I

am also improving the timeliness of payments to municipalities to ease their short-term financing requirements.

The community economic transformation agreements program will be renewed and broadened in scope. The program will be available to communities facing substantial economic dislocation. It will be of special importance to eastern and northern communities, particularly those depending on single industries that are facing severe structural adjustment problems. The city of Sault Ste. Marie, which is facing major layoffs at Algoma Steel, is an obvious example. The focus of the program will be on long-term job creation. Communities that take the initiative to generate and develop ideas for job creation may receive provincial assistance which, together with local and private-sector funding, will help make these ideas a reality. I am budgeting \$25 million for this measure over the next two years.

The government will ensure that new initiatives are combined with existing programs in a comprehensive response to the difficult circumstances in northern Ontario. In the meantime, the budget of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines includes an increase of \$10 million in 1986-87 for health care and transportation initiatives. An additional \$5 million will be spent on new educational programs for the north. This year, \$17 million will be made available from the \$100-million northern development fund to promote enduring economic activity in the north.

Ontario Hydro is establishing a northern advisory board to enable it to play a more active role in stimulating northern development.

The mining industry has long been the mainstay of many northern communities. Last fall, to keep pace with the changing competitive conditions facing the mining industry, I presented a number of proposals to simplify the Mining Tax Act and to make Ontario more competitive with other provinces. After extensive consultation, I am transferring responsibility for the administration of the Mining Tax Act to the Ministry of Revenue, and I will introduce a bill to update that act. As already announced, we will maintain the existing maximum processing allowance of 65 per cent.

The forest industry is a major contributor to the provincial economy and accounts for more than \$3.5 billion in annual exports. To ensure that our forest resources are properly tended and protected, Ontario will increase its forestry budget by more than 13 per cent to \$271 million in 1986-87. Included in this funding is \$3.5 million to expand the number of forest management

agreements and \$35 million under a cost-sharing agreement with the federal government for forest management activities.

Economic conditions in eastern Ontario also warrant special attention. The reorganization of the Ontario Development Corp., its broader range of programs and its higher allocation should be of particular benefit to eastern Ontario. The CETA program will permit eastern Ontario communities to undertake initiatives to revitalize their local economies. New funds will also be available to boost tourism in the region.

Recently, government assistance encouraged the establishment of auto parts plants in Peterborough and Lindsay, involving a total investment of \$68 million and the creation of almost 500 new jobs. These developments clearly point to the rich potential for this area of the province.

As I noted earlier, the agricultural outlook remains bleak. Although interest rates are dropping, too many farmers still have unacceptably high debt burdens. With low commodity prices, the cash flow from farming operations is too often insufficient to service farm debt, and credit is increasingly difficult to obtain. With the threat of continued depressed prices posed by new US agricultural policies, the financial pressures on our farmers are expected to continue.

To respond to the needs of Ontario's farm community, the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has been increased to \$457 million, a 39 per cent increase in funding since we took office. In line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Agricultural Finance, we will extend the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, expand the farm operating credit assistance program and expand the beginning farmers assistance program. We will also introduce new research and education initiatives and improve the marketing of Ontario's agricultural products. Full details of these initiatives will be announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell).

In my previous budget, I announced a special fund to assist Ontario farmers who are leaving the agricultural industry. The federal government has now announced a similar program that is national in scope. This provides us with an opportunity to wind down those aspects of our program that the federal program replaces and to reallocate the funding to other agricultural priorities.

4:30 p.m.

I now turn to our plans for improving Ontario's social programs. Most are designed to provide

long-term benefits, but there is one urgent problem that requires immediate action. A disturbing number of social assistance recipients often need to use their food money to pay rent. I am therefore providing an additional \$25 million to increase shelter subsidies for those recipients with very high shelter costs. About 50,000 families will benefit from this increased support.

The government is committed to a reform of child care policy and recognizes child care as a basic public service. A comprehensive plan for this important service for working parents is now being developed. In the meantime, I wish to demonstrate our commitment to child care in a practical way. In addition to the \$26-million increase in funding allocated this year to my October 1985 budget initiatives for child care, I am adding a further \$6 million to alleviate a number of pressing problems, including capital expansion.

In other social initiatives, we are placing a fresh emphasis on mobilizing community resources to help people lead more independent lives.

To strengthen services for senior citizens, I am providing \$13.5 million for new and existing programs, including the improvement of community support services, the expansion of regional geriatric assessment units, and the establishment of a new department of geriatrics at an Ontario university.

To demonstrate Ontario's commitment to the disabled, and in recognition of the United Nations declaration of the Decade of Disabled Persons, I am allocating \$10 million to permit greater participation by the disabled in the mainstream of social and economic activity.

To expand and enhance housing programs to better meet the needs of the disabled, I am providing an additional \$5 million to the Ministry of Housing and the office responsible for disabled persons.

To help integrate the developmentally handicapped into our communities, \$17 million will be allocated over the next two years. A comprehensive plan for community and residential services for the mentally handicapped is also being developed.

We will provide \$850 million for a major, multi-year hospital capital expansion. This program will provide for additional acute and chronic care beds and the most pressing improvements to existing hospital and cancer treatment facilities. All construction will begin within the next five years. The Minister of Health (Mr.

Elston) will bring forward a comprehensive plan for future capital requirements.

The Ministry of Health will be presenting a proposal to extend the range of dental services available to children. Local health units will receive special funding to provide necessary treatment to school-aged children with urgent dental care needs.

The government has moved quickly to respond to the environmental concerns facing Ontario. The budget provides continued support for the security fund for waste cleanup and new funding to ensure that we can respond quickly and efficiently when toxic spills occur anywhere in the province. The Ministry of the Environment's \$363-million budget includes an additional \$5 million to improve the monitoring of water quality and to expand its capacity to perform the necessary sophisticated laboratory tests.

To improve systems for disposal of biomedical waste and to ensure compliance with current waste disposal standards, the Minister of Health will soon announce details of a \$15-million biomedical waste treatment plan for hospitals.

We are making progress in meeting our commitment to increase the supply of affordable rental housing. In February, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) signed an agreement with his federal counterpart to build 6,700 units of nonprofit and co-operative housing in 1986. At least 4,700 of these will be subsidized units for low-income families. The province will also share the cost of 600 rent-geared-to-income units in the federal government's new co-operative tenure program.

Through the Renterprise program, announced last December, 5,000 rental units will be built. Other programs will help pay the cost of renovating older apartment buildings. We will spend \$500 million on affordable housing programs over the next five years. This year, spending on housing programs will total more than \$60 million.

My colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munro) will be announcing a new investing in the arts program. This four-year, \$10-million initiative will deliver incentives for fund-raising efforts and improve the financial strength of Ontario's arts organizations.

The people of the province and the nation benefit when the federal government and the provinces work together. An example is last year's national consensus on private-sector pension reform. More recently, after nearly a decade of discussion, the federal and provincial governments have reached agreement on a new financ-

ing arrangement for the Canada pension plan and a modest package of needed benefit improvements.

The first annual meeting of ministers under the economic and regional development agreement will take place soon. We will discuss Ontario's priorities for action over the coming year and review progress under the ERDA with the federal Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Mr. Rae: What is his name?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: He remains to be named.

I expect we will be able to agree on a number of new initiatives to further the province's economic and industrial development potential.

Another matter of shared concern for both levels of government is the need for a comprehensive response to the current difficulties in northern Ontario. One of the great strengths of this nation is our capacity to recognize and respond co-operatively and positively to problems in any part of Canada where need exists. Unfortunately, not all recent developments have been positive. The combined impact of the past two federal budgets will be a net reduction in Ontario's revenues of an estimated \$39 million this year.

The federal cut in support for health care and post-secondary education will reduce Ontario's revenues by \$114 million this year and by close to \$2 billion over the next five years.

The capital gains exemption introduced in the 1985 federal budget will reduce Ontario's revenues by \$130 million a year. It undermines the fairness of the tax system and adds significantly to its complexity. Since my October budget, I have conveyed Ontario's opposition to this exemption to the federal Minister of Finance. After a thorough review of the available options, I have decided it is not practical to proceed with an Ontario capital gains tax.

I am concerned about the implications for Ontario of a number of items on the federal agenda.

The proposal in the last federal budget for international banking centres fails to recognize the importance of Toronto as the nation's major financial centre, and it sends a confusing signal to the international banking community.

The social program cuts proposed by the Nielsen task force could adversely affect our revenues for those programs or result in the shift of expenditures to the province.

The federal finance minister indicated that he will introduce measures in his next budget to change the federal system of social expenditures and the related tax measures, but he has not

indicated how or when he will consult the provinces about these matters of fundamental concern.

The federal government is expected to change its sales tax to a business transfer tax. This could have major economic and fiscal implications for Ontario.

Finally, we are concerned about what is not on the federal-provincial agenda. A thorough review of the entire tax system is needed. Taxpayers are increasingly concerned about its complexity, questioning its fairness and sceptical about the way the tax system is used to create incentives.

It is also time to begin a federal-provincial discussion of the issues related to the financing of child care and to consider a far-reaching reform of social programs. Ontario has initiated its own study of social assistance which I believe will contribute to the national review of the financing and delivery of income support programs.

I intend to raise all these matters at the next federal-provincial meeting of finance ministers and treasurers.

An important aspect of fiscal responsibility is to pay today for things consumed today and to borrow only for projects of enduring benefit and when economic stimulus is required. This is the foundation of our approach to fiscal management.

As part of this pay-as-you-go policy, we are making major changes in the way the province's financial affairs are managed. These changes will make possible a more businesslike approach to government spending.

In past years, each ministry developed separate capital spending plans and received allocations on a year-by-year basis. There was little co-ordination among ministries, and long-term planning was inadequate.

We will implement a more comprehensive approach to capital expenditure planning. The Management Board of Cabinet will co-ordinate Ontario's capital and other investment plans. Each ministry will submit a multi-year capital plan, which will identify future needs and report the impact of new capital spending on operating costs. These plans will be updated annually and reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with overall government objectives.

4:40 p.m.

Other changes are planned:

As announced in my October 1985 budget, my colleague the Chairman of Management Board (Ms. Caplan) will be making regular reports to the House on the results of her review of the

effectiveness and efficiency of government activities.

I have asked Treasury staff for a review of the financing issues related to the indexing of Ontario's two major public-sector pension plans.

We are continuing to review our financing strategies to take advantage of new opportunities in capital markets and modern debt management techniques. We have declined Canada pension plan funds available to Ontario in May of this year, because these funds were surplus to our needs and were more expensive than alternative sources.

Lottery revenues will no longer be designated for specific programs. They will now be used for such priorities as cancer treatment, community hospitals and university research as well as for community recreation and cultural activities.

I now come to this budget's revenue measures. In reviewing my options, I concluded that increases in the rates of personal income tax, retail sales tax and corporate income tax are unwarranted. Instead, I am proposing measures to improve the fairness of the system, specifically: an increase in the tobacco tax of 0.13 cents per cigarette, which will add approximately four cents to the price of a package of 25; ceilings on retail sales tax support for the purchase of alternative-fuel vehicles, effective 30 days following royal assent; removal of the sales tax exemption for heavy trucks and trailers; continuation of the three per cent surtax on Ontario personal income tax in excess of \$5,000, which will affect only taxpayers earning more than \$50,000; paralleling of the federal treatment of reserves in the corporate income tax, and—

Mr. Grossman: Five thousand dollars?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Yes. If I may read that for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman), it is continuation of the three per cent surtax on Ontario personal income tax in excess of \$5,000. This will affect only taxpayers earning more than \$50,000. We also want to parallel the federal treatment of reserves in the corporate income tax, and we will tighten and simplify the current rules for the calculation of the capital tax base.

Except as indicated, these measures will take effect on January 1, 1987. I estimate that these measures will increase Ontario revenues by \$17 million this year.

To benefit low-income people, I propose to further broaden Ontario's income tax reduction program. For 1987, taxpayers with taxable incomes of less than \$2,275 will have their taxes reduced, and those with taxable incomes of less

than \$2,075 will pay no Ontario personal income tax at all. This will save low-income Ontarians an additional \$15 million next year and will bring to 550,000 the number of Ontarians whose provincial tax is reduced or eliminated by this program.

We will continue to phase down our reliance on Ontario health insurance plan premiums to help fund health care. In addition, we will eliminate premium payments for an estimated 35,000 low-income Ontarians in 1987, at a cost of \$20 million.

Finally, I propose that the sales tax relief for low-priced meals introduced earlier this year be improved by raising the \$1 exemption level to \$2.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am glad the members like that.

This measure will take effect 30 days following royal assent. I expect this change to cost an additional \$20 million this fiscal year.

The fiscal plan reduces net cash requirements to \$1.5 billion this year. This amounts to an \$85-million decrease from the level of last year's net cash requirements before taking into account extraordinary adjustments such as paying off the Suncor note. Including those adjustments, net cash requirements are reduced by \$590 million from \$2.1 billion last year. The fiscal plan continues the downward trend in net cash requirements as a percentage of total government spending, from 6.5 per cent last year to 4.9 per cent this year.

Revenues are projected to increase by 8.2 per cent this fiscal year, reflecting Ontario's continued strong economic performance. Expenditures are expected to grow by 7.4 per cent.

The operating position reflects the progress the government has made in paying for its day-to-day operating needs from its current revenues. This budget further reduces the operating deficit by \$263 million this year to \$317 million.

Accompanying my last budget was a discussion paper entitled *Reforming the Budget Process*. I have received a great deal of positive comment from individuals and associations that have participated in budget consultations. The legislative committee on finance and economic affairs has been appointed. I am pleased to confirm that the consultations for the 1987 budget will begin this autumn, and I will present a paper to assist in focusing the debate. These are important reforms which will assist future budgets to be fully responsive to the needs of Ontarians.

The legislative committee will also be asked to deal with other issues of significance to the province and the nation. For example, there is a growing public concern about corporate concentration and ownership. In many cases this concentration is being fed by mergers and takeovers. I question the merit of these mergers as well as the dangers the resulting concentrations pose to our community. I am asking the new legislative committee to examine this issue and to bring to the Legislature its recommendations for an appropriate Ontario response.

In conclusion, the budget provides for the government's program outlined in the speech from the throne.

It adopts a longer-term approach to the management of government.

It introduces programs to maintain our economic prosperity and create jobs.

It describes the government's programs to assist business in meeting the competitive challenges of the 1990s and the rationalization and simplification of the delivery of those programs.

It responds to the crisis in the Ontario farm community.

It funds programs essential to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Ontario.

It establishes new standards for fiscal management.

And finally, it proposes no general tax increases.

On motion by Mr. Harris, the debate was adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I request the permission of the House to revert to introduction of bills so I may place the budget bills before the House without delay.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement by all members of the House?

Agreed to.

4:50 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Small Business Development Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 27, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

TOBACCO TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 38, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 40, An Act to authorize the raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

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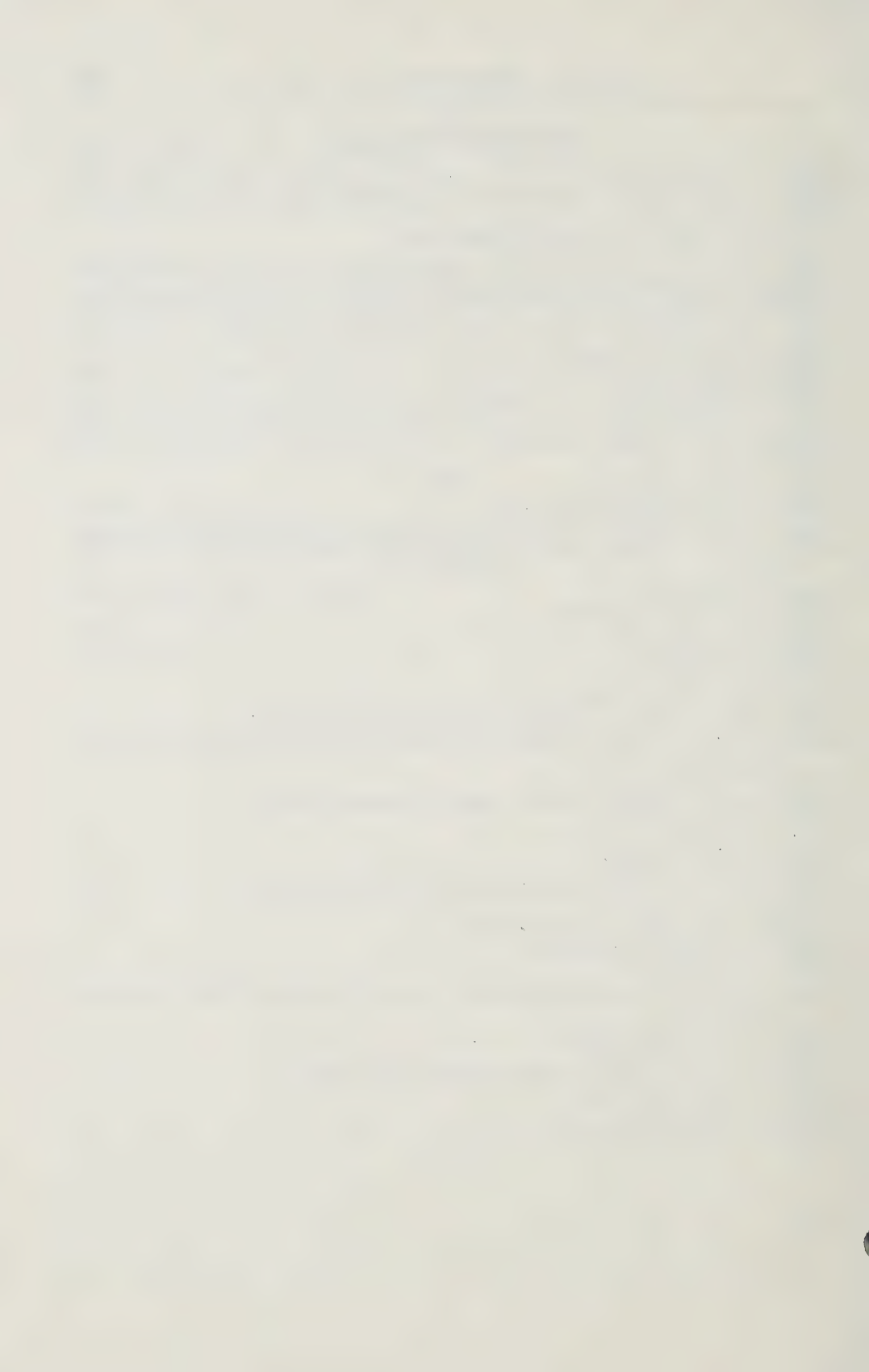
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Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)
O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)
Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)
Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (London North L)
Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)





No. 14

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 33rd Parliament
Wednesday, May 14, 1986

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 14, 1986

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Speaker: I hope all members are aware that from July 26 to August 2, the Ontario branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be host to legislators from across Canada and from several Commonwealth countries at the 26th Canadian regional conference.

Earlier this year, the Ontario branch sponsored a competition for a conference identity symbol involving commercial and design students at the Ontario College of Art. There were 28 submissions. I would like to congratulate and thank all those who participated in the competition and the judging.

I am pleased to introduce the three prize-winners in the competition, who are seated in the Speaker's gallery today. The winner of the first prize is Roger Seguin. Mr. Seguin's design represents the coming together in Ontario of the 12 other Canadian branches of the CPA for the conference. Samples of the design are on display this afternoon outside the chamber. We also have with us Cindy Saunders, who was awarded the second prize. The winner of the third prize was Eileen Fleming. Please welcome our guests today.

ONTARIO ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Mr. Speaker: I also wish to advise the House that the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission has concluded its work with a submission of the large-scale maps of each proposed electoral district which I have tabled with the Clerk today.

TICKET ALLOCATION

Mr. McLean: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I would like to know the name of the person in charge of ticket allocation for such events as yesterday's budget speech. I asked for some tickets as soon as they were supposed to be available. I was told all tickets were gone within two hours of delivery to the person in charge of them. Then, some time yesterday morning, I was

informed there were tickets available to the House.

For interested parties in some outlying constituencies, considerable planning must go into taking time out for a trip to Queen's Park. There appears to be a disturbing lack of coherence along the line here. I feel this is an abuse of my privileges as a member of this Legislature and of members of the opposition in general.

I want to know the name of the person who bears the ultimate responsibility. I would like some assurance that this procedure will not continue. Perhaps the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) was saving the seats for his tobacco farmer friends. I suppose if the galleries had been full, there would have been more disappointed people.

Mr. Speaker: I might just say to the member that the Speaker's office is responsible for the allocation of the seats. The same allocation was approved by the Speaker's office this time as for the previous budget. All members were advised by special delivery at one time that so many tickets would be available. I would be glad to get the full information for the member and respond more fully.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: On February 26, I put a question on Orders and Notices to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye). Since it is long past the 14 days in which one gets a reply, according to standing order 88(d), perhaps you could be helpful in finding out for me how it is I go about getting an answer from the swamp.

Mr. Speaker: The standing orders are certainly very clear. However, I am sure the honourable member is aware that there is another way and that is to ask the minister during question period.

2:06 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CONTRACT WORKERS

Mr. Hennessy: I would like the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Sorbara) to look into a complaint from four Thunder Bay employees of the Confederation College whose contracts were terminated, resulting in them

being let go without notice or warning. One was contacted by the program manager at 7:30 in the morning of a normal work day and told not to show up; his job had been taken by someone else.

These people had previously been given positive feedback about the work they were doing, in some cases had received wage increases and had contracts renewed automatically on previous occasions. Why is this year so different? They had been on contract for up to three and a half years. When did they suddenly become incompetent? Was not one of them qualified for any full-time positions that became available?

I am concerned about the way these individuals were treated. I would like the minister's assurance that this sort of thing will not happen in the future. I would also like to see if anything can be done to make up for the shameful way these four were treated. I think the college should offer them some reasonable alternative employment to make up for its bad judgement.

I would also like the minister to look into the manner in which they were told they had lost their jobs. The making of such an eleventh-hour phone call is just shameful. These people have written to the president of the college asking for an explanation of the sudden and unexpected dismissals. At the very least, the minister should insist that the college president respond to their inquiries.

BUDGET

Mr. Foulds: Yesterday's budget will become known as the Teflon-coated budget: slippery on the outside because it did not substantially raise taxes, but hollow on the inside because it did nothing substantial to develop new programs, reduce economic injustice or tackle the problem of tax fairness in our society.

The best antipoverty program in the world is not unemployment insurance benefits, social assistance or severance pay; the best antipoverty program in the world is a job creation program. This budget had none.

This year there was a buoyancy, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) tells us, a small tide in the economic affairs of Ontario which, if the Treasurer and his colleagues had the courage to pursue it, would have led to improved conditions for the poor and unemployed all over our province. They could have done something genuine to meet the desperate needs of those facing a loss of job in northern Ontario.

The government has yet to grasp the loss of dignity and the loss of self that comes with the

loss of meaningful work. The Treasurer's budget failed to meet the needs of the other Ontario: the homeless, the working poor and the unemployed of northern Ontario, whose rate is 13.2 per cent, twice that of the provincial average. This was a Progressive Conservative budget without any progressive parts.

2:10 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SITE

Mr. Morin: I rise on this occasion to draw members' attention to the problems my constituents are experiencing because of the federal government's choice of Mile Circle, a popular local park land, as the site of the new American embassy.

Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, the local community is not anti-American. Like other Canadians, Manor Park residents want to see our good friends and neighbours, the Americans, have as secure an embassy as possible. The question is, should embassy security be at the expense of the aesthetics and safety of the surrounding quiet residential district? The answer is, of course not.

But even more irritating to my constituents than the location itself is the way in which this site was chosen without effective prior consultation with the community. In sharp contrast to this government's commitment to consultation, as was demonstrated only yesterday by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) in formulating his budget, the federal government, through the National Capital Commission, has chosen to act unilaterally. The name Mile Circle is becoming synonymous with government by decree.

DAY CARE

Mr. Cousens: The expectations for an expanded child and day care program were shattered by the lack of commitment in yesterday's budget. It was a major disappointment.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) has said he was prepared to make a substantial move in day care. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has led people to believe that significant action was forthcoming in day care. What the people received yesterday was a drop in the bucket, certainly not enough money for major new initiatives that were talked about.

That the government would launch new, expanded day care programs was a false hope created by the Premier and the Minister of Community and Social Services. Only \$6 million in additional funding was announced in the budget for day care, a mere 4.7 per cent increase.

This is an insignificant amount for all the promises.

The government has compromised its commitment to the people who believed it was going to do something for children. This is a time for the government to act in a responsible and significant way for day care; it is time something happened. Obviously, that time has not arrived for the people across the floor.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Wildman: The budget presented by the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) yesterday is designed in the same way as was this Ministry of Transportation and Communications road map. Southern Ontario is dealt with on a much larger scale, and northern Ontario is left to the back and completely ignored.

It is time the government at Queen's Park realized there is a vast territory in northern Ontario and it is undergoing serious structural problems. While the unemployment rate in all of the province has dropped from 8.2 per cent in January to 7.2 per cent in April, the already higher rates in the north have increased. In northeastern Ontario, they have risen from 11.3 per cent to 12.8 per cent, and in the northwest from 12.9 per cent to 13.6 per cent. Those are the April figures, before any of the announcements were made by Great Lakes Forest Products, Algoma Steel, Kimberly-Clark or Rio Algom.

There is nothing in the budget, besides \$17 million from the already announced \$100-million northern economic development fund, which does anything for the north. There is a total of \$35 million for health care, education and forestry as well as part of \$25 million for the community economic transformation agreement program, which is to be shared with eastern Ontario.

This is just peanuts. The budget fails to deal with the problems of the north, and it is time the Treasurer studied the map to learn that there is another part of this province besides southern Ontario.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mr. Haggerty: I rise to support the efforts put forward by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and to encourage him to continue to insist on real and meaningful environmental safeguards being included in any agreement on the Niagara River. Any plan to clean up the toxic chemical pollution that enters the Niagara River must include (1) extensive monitoring for pollution within the river's watershed, (2) the

excavation of the toxic deposits, and not any futile attempts to contain the waste and (3) a detailed and enforceable timetable for the reduction of the chemicals now entering the river.

The minister's defence of Ontario's interests in these negotiations is greatly appreciated by those millions of people who use the Niagara River and Lake Ontario for their drinking water.

BACK-BENCHERS' QUESTIONS

Mr. Gillies: It is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise to announce the creation and presentation of a new award. At great expense, our party wants to honour the contribution being made by government back-benchers to question period.

It was yesterday, after a couple of especially tough, probing and controversial questions from Liberal back-benchers, that members on this side believed it was time to recognize the best question. We believe it is surely a coincidence that Liberal back-benchers have increased their questioning 400 per cent since electronic Hansard came in. We want to honour the member for York East (Ms. Hart) for her particularly probing and tough contribution yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The members on that side have not seen anything yet.

Mr. Grossman: We saw it yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Somebody has to provide a credible opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Time for members' statements has expired.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I have just been advised that in the gallery today we have Chuck Furey, member of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Furey.

2:16 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

Hon. Mr. Ruprecht: On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), my colleagues and the government of Ontario, I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event that took place on this day 38 years ago, May 14, 1948—the establishment of the state of Israel.

This date is of great significance to our Jewish community around the globe and indeed to all freedom-loving peoples. It is the fulfilment of prophecies, prayers and dreams.

I want to recognize the presence of the diplomatic corps of the state of Israel, including

Gideon Saguy, and representatives of the Canadian Jewish religious, fraternal, cultural and philanthropic organizations in the gallery.

Israel may be a small dot on the map of the world, but it is a giant model of democracy, indeed, the great symbol. In spite of economic hardship, wars and threats of war, Israel has not lost its sense of purpose: to shine as a beacon of freedom, democracy and fulfilment of the promise of the ancient Hebrew prophets.

On this festive occasion, may all of us join in the hopes and prayers of Jewish people here and in Israel that the day may not be far off when the people of Israel and the nations of the world lay down their arms, turn their swords into ploughshares and realize the beautiful word of peace, shalom.

On behalf of the government of Ontario, I would now like to read the proclamation of Israeli Independence Day:

"Whereas the province of Ontario and the Canadian nation have prospered through the courage and industry of people of many nationalities and religions who have come to this land in search of freedom and opportunities; and

"Whereas we are especially mindful of the important contribution that citizens of Jewish ancestry have made to our province and country since first arriving in Canada in 1759; and

"Whereas the free, united, independent and democratic state of Israel was established 38 years ago on the 14th day of May, 1948; and

"Whereas it is imperative for Canadians to remember that the price of our precious freedom is eternal vigilance; and

"Whereas the observance of the anniversary fosters within us a deeper appreciation of freedom, liberty and democratic ideals;

"Therefore, on behalf of the government of Ontario, we are pleased to recognize May 14, 1986, as Israeli Independence Day and commend its observance to the people of our province."

[Later]

Mr. Grossman: Before I begin my response, perhaps I might raise a point of privilege.

Under the new rules of the House, there is a time gap between ministerial statements and the opportunity for us to respond on special occasions such as Israeli Independence Day.

I want to express my very serious concern and outrage at the fact that many very senior members of the Jewish community, including the Consul General, were here to hear the very first statement, which was that of the minister acknowledging Israeli Independence Day. As soon as his statement was finished, he left and

took the entire contingent with him without leaving an opportunity for either the opposition party or the leader of the third party to join in a tradition in this assembly, which is to acknowledge together those nonpartisan occasions when the views of all parties and all people of Ontario should be offered.

I am told the government invited the representatives down to the government caucus office. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) joined them there, together with the member for Oriole (Ms. Caplan) and the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Kwinter)—not a coincidence, I might add.

The leader of the third party and I will now both use this opportunity, not to one-up the government, but simply to join with the government and all the people of Ontario in acknowledging a very important day to all people, I hope. The representatives of the Jewish community in Toronto and the Israeli consulate and their representatives, having met with and still meeting with the Premier, the minister, the member for Oriole and the member for Wilson Heights, will not have the opportunity to hear the best wishes expressed by the Leader of the Opposition and by the leader of the third party.

I want to express to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the government my very serious irritation at this lack of fundamental courtesy to the opposition parties on this day. I ask you to take whatever steps are appropriate and raise it with the government. My request to the government is that it express its apologies, not to us, but to the Israeli and Jewish communities in Toronto. Under the new rules, I consider this to be an absolute slap in the face and a serious breach of courtesy to the opposition parties.

Mr. Rae: These opportunities do not come very often for me, but I want to associate myself and our party entirely with the remarks that have just been made by the leader of the official opposition. I watched the minister without courtesy stand at his place and then escort out the entire delegation that was here, including the Consul General, Mr. Saguy, and Rabbi Pearlson and his friends who were up in the gallery.

Given the normal courtesies of events of this kind, the well-known association of members of all parties with the state of Israel and the well-known association of both the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) and myself with the Jewish community, I would have thought the smallest of courtesies on the government's part would have been reflected on this day of all days in the assembly.

I want to register my very strong protest at what has taken place. It is an insult to turn what is a nonpartisan occasion into a partisan occasion and is intensely regrettable. It signals a very bad message about general courtesy and understanding between members on a day of great significance to a great many citizens of this city, this province and this country.

I express my personal protest and that of my caucus colleagues at the way in which this whole event on United Nations Day has been treated. On any other occasion I can think of, when these events have been spoken to by the Premier, it has always been customary for leaders of other parties to be able to participate and share in those occasions. That has not happened on this occasion. It is profoundly regrettable and an insult to a great many of us who would have liked to have been able to participate on this occasion.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: May I, on behalf of my colleagues, indicate we have taken the deep concerns expressed by the two opposition leaders seriously and will convey them to the minister responsible.

In the past, it has always been accepted that when a statement of this nature is brought forward, opposition members take part in the general discussion. Under the new rules, this is not one of the freedoms that seems to be emphasized. I cannot do anything now to correct what has just happened, but in the future I feel unanimous consent would be readily forthcoming for any member to join in the sorts of comments made on these important occasions.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully to the members. It is not a point of privilege or a point of order. It is certainly a point of objection. I understand from what has been said it has been taken note of very carefully.

Mr. Grossman: I say to the government House leader it would have been appropriate to schedule the statement last, and that would have avoided the problem. There was no particular urgency to it. Second, the Premier should not blame the minister responsible, because it was quite clear the Premier left at the time to meet with the group. It was not a coincidence; neither was it totally in the hands of the minister.

This is a touching and important day for me and has traditionally been so. One of my earliest remembrances of all is listening to the United Nations vote. I can remember gathering around a radio, as many other Jews can. Although I cannot remember the vote, I can remember the setting and sitting there listening to the vote with the family. This date in 1948, whose anniversary we

are celebrating today, was a great day not just for members of my faith, but I hope also for all democratic peoples, as this great, glorious, strong, fiercely fighting and independent state was created. It is an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon the continuing importance of that great state.

I remember back further. In terms of measuring the significance of this date, my grandfather escaped from Europe in 1907 and thereby escaped persecution. He would not have believed that today we could celebrate and talk about the state of Israel in this assembly. He would not have believed the warmth of the greetings that the state gets here and in other places, for all those reasons. My grandfather, had he still been with us today, would not have believed his grandson could stand in this place in this assembly. All of that is not unrelated to the events of 1948, which we celebrate today. I want to join the government and the third party in acknowledging this date, which has special significance for me.

I cannot resist adding that it is of double significance for me to be able to join in this celebration, as it were, on a day when my son Robbie and his class are joining us in the east gallery so that they may be with us this afternoon.

Mr. Rae: I want to associate myself with the comments that have been made about the celebration of the anniversary of the state of Israel.

Canada came of age in its diplomatic life on the world stage with the events after 1945. Many Canadians, not only Jews, shared a great pride in the creation of the state of Israel. We as a country have played a critical role in the Middle East in trying to create a more stable world condition. We celebrate every year as we approach the 40th anniversary of the state. We celebrate this wonderful occasion with the Jewish people.

I only regret that my daughter is not in the gallery to hear these remarks, but there we are.

GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Following discussions with the company, its principal labour unions and the municipality of Thunder Bay, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has now arranged for an independent assessment of the financial situation and the competitive outlook of the Great Lakes wafer-board mill.

This confidential study, which will be undertaken by my ministry, will be led by Dr. Bob Rosehart, president of Lakehead University. Dr. Rosehart is also chairman of the committee on

resource-dependent communities in northern Ontario, whose report is expected shortly.

Dr. Rosehart is now preparing terms of reference for the study, with the assistance of my ministry, the Ministry of Labour and other ministries. He will also consult with the company and its unions in the development of the terms of reference.

We are very grateful to Dr. Rosehart for accepting this additional onerous task. We have assured him of our support in the provision of outside expert assistance of a financial, technical and economic nature as well as in-house data and expertise from our government.

While no one can say the study itself will resolve the present difference of views that has led to suspension of plant operations, we believe it responds to the need for an impartial point of view, which has been a key issue raised by the employees. It is our belief that this government should do everything it can to secure reopening of the plant.

We have been assured the company will take no action with regard to the now-idle plant, pending discussions and the results of Dr. Rosehart's study. Initial study results are expected to be available to my ministry within two months.

Mr. Bernier: I say to the House and to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines that we welcome the announcement on the study with respect to the closing of the Thunder Bay waferboard plant.

However, for a government that professes to be open, a government with no walls and no barriers, I am shocked to hear the minister say this will be a confidential study. If it was sincere about this study, it would look at all the facts and figures, and if the company was sincere in bringing out the facts, they should be made public.

Also, I find it inconceivable that the man undertaking this study will be preparing his own terms of reference. I wonder where the government is and where the leadership is on that side. Surely, if a government is having a study, it would at least have some indication of what the terms of reference would be, and not ask the gentleman who is in charge of the study.

Mr. Foulds: I welcome the statement by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines (Mr. Fontaine), but I have some reservations. I welcome the appointment of Dr. Rosehart, who I think will do an excellent job. Like my friend the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), I worry about

the confidentiality of a study, I think with more justification than he does.

Second, I believe the terms of reference must be made public. I believe all the information must be made accessible to the union involved. The community must have access, not only to the books but also to the feasibility study the company did. I also hope Dr. Rosehart can complete the study before the two-month period, because every day the plant is down means it will be harder to open it again.

I hope Dr. Rosehart will look at the full range of options, including an alternative ownership of the plant. A study does not solve the problem, but it could help.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Hon. Mr. Wrye: As honourable members know, the government is dedicating significant time and effort to the reform of the workers' compensation system.

In recent months, there has been a great deal of activity in this regard: implementation of the major reforms prescribed by Bill 101, indexation of compensation benefits and the announcement of further regionalization of compensation board services.

In the next phase of reform, the government proposes to introduce amendments relating to compensation for permanent disabilities, the reinstatement of a worker to former employment and mandatory experience rating.

It is in the area of reinstatement that the quality of vocational rehabilitation services is so clearly crucial. For the right to reinstatement to be more than merely theoretical, injured workers and employers must have at their disposal a meaningful, comprehensive rehabilitation program that makes effective way for such reinstatement.

More than that, some workers are unable to return to their previous employment following a work-place injury, simply because the level of permanent disability makes it impossible for them to perform the work. These workers often need substantial and comprehensive vocational rehabilitation to enable them to once again play a meaningful role in the Ontario work place.

In recent times, there has been a continuing call by injured workers, legislators and rehabilitation professionals for extensive improvements to the vocational rehabilitation services of the Workers' Compensation Board.

Last November, the standing committee on resources development reported that the WCB's "current rehabilitation programs need modification and upgrading in a number of ways." The

committee made seven specific recommendations on WCB rehabilitation services. The establishment of an independent task force to recommend improvements to those services was one of those.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce this afternoon that the government has established the Ontario Task Force on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Workers' Compensation Board.

I am also pleased to announce that Walter Majesky and Maria Minna have agreed to serve as full-time co-chairmen of the task force.

Mr. Majesky is a past president of the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto and former secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Ms. Minna is a community relations consultant who has substantial expertise in the rehabilitation of injured workers. She is the president of COSTI-IIAS, the largest immigrant services organization in the country, and is a former director of the National Council of Welfare.

The task force I am announcing today has been charged with eight tasks.

1. To examine the vocational rehabilitation services provided by the board, including an examination and identification of the goals and expected results of the vocational rehabilitation programs.

2. To assess the adequacy of the funds expended by the Workers' Compensation Board on vocational rehabilitation programs in relation to the intended goals of the program and to other types of benefits provided to injured workers.

3. To explore strategies to identify at the earliest possible opportunity those injured workers who will probably encounter difficulties in returning to suitable employment and to ensure that these workers are provided with appropriate vocational rehabilitation services.

4. To examine approaches for providing a comprehensive rehabilitation service to workers through the integration of vocational rehabilitation, claims and medical services.

5. To examine the role of vocational rehabilitation in facilitating the hiring of injured workers.

6. To explore the appropriate role for retraining and re-education in the vocational rehabilitation process.

7. To examine the extent to which the Workers' Compensation Board's vocational rehabilitation service is dependent upon vocational evaluations and to determine the role for the board, the private sector and nonprofit organiza-

tions in providing vocational evaluation services.

8. To consider any other vocational rehabilitation issues which the task force considers important.

The task force will have members aside from Mr. Majesky and Ms. Minna. I expect the appointments of these additional members will be announced shortly.

Finally, the task force has been asked to issue an interim report by October 31 and a final report by May 1, 1987.

I know honourable members will share my view that the task force has a very important job before it, one that has vitally positive implications for the injured workers of Ontario.

I wish it well in its deliberations and I keenly await its reports on those deliberations.

Mr. McClellan: On behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, I welcome the announcement from the Minister of Labour that he intends to have a serious review of the vocational rehabilitation services of the Workers' Compensation Board and to set up a task force to that end, to report as early as next fall.

The minister and members of the House will know of our concern about the practices of the WCB and its failure to respond to the needs of injured workers for effective rehabilitation services and, most important of all, for the right to return to productive employment.

It is the experience of the majority of injured workers who end up with residual disabilities that they are deprived of high-paying jobs. Even if they are successfully rehabilitated by the WCB, they find themselves at the bottom of the economic ladder. In some cases, construction workers move from \$18-an-hour jobs to minimum wage, without a decent pension, without decent supplementation and without prospects.

We will be making submissions to the task force when it begins its work. I want to acknowledge that the task force idea flowed from the work of the standing committee on resources development under the chairmanship of my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and the excellent report which was tabled earlier this year.

There are three quick points I would like to make that the task force must address.

First, it must address the legal right of workers to return to their pre-accident jobs. Many workers are now simply thrown on the economic scrap heap.

Second, the task force will have to address the question of quotas and the need to have a quota

system to require the private sector to hire disabled workers. Most European countries did this after the Second World War; Ontario has simply failed to grasp the nettle.

Third, the task force will have to deal with the question of job creation. Over the years, we have argued that Ontario should establish crown corporations, modelled on the British re-employment system, to hire injured and disabled workers. We hope this task force will also look at the problem of physically handicapped workers, who fall under the aegis of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and are outside the ambit of the Workers' Compensation Board, so that we will end up with a system that provides decent employment for all disabled workers.

I would like to acknowledge the excellence of the choices. Our old friend Wally Majesky, who has assumed this office, and Maria Minna as well will, I am sure, do an excellent job.

COMPUTERIZED MAPPING SYSTEM

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I know all the members are aware of the impact of technology on the way our world operates. We are experiencing a trend towards the more frequent use of computers to record and exchange information.

The government is committed to increasing technology development in Ontario and maximizing the export potential of the rapidly emerging computer mapping industry.

In response to these developments, my ministry will proceed with a two-year project involving an investment of \$4.2 million a year to test how computer-recorded information can be applied to upgrade our present mapping system.

More than half of these funds, \$2.2 million a year, will be obtained by redirecting moneys used under the existing Ontario basic mapping program and from other internal funds. The remaining \$2 million a year will come from new initiative funding under the technology opportunity fund.

I would like to remind the members that this test phase of the computer mapping system expands on a mandate given to my ministry more than 10 years ago. At that time, the Committee on Government Productivity gave us the responsibility to develop a comprehensive, land-related information system.

Since then, we have accomplished a great deal. We have created a common means by which land-related information is identified through a computerized geographical referencing system. With the Ontario basic mapping program, we have produced hand-drawn maps to

display basic topographic information about the province.

We are now at the point where a computer version of this product is not only possible but very much in demand, both in the public sector and in the private sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the benefits a computer mapping system will have to its users. It can serve as a common reference base for a variety of information, from assessing forestry plans to deploying ambulances, thus reducing the complexity of decision-making. It can permit the overlay of one piece of information on another; this not only adds to the total information stored but also helps the user to test the impact of decisions on a variety of areas.

The economic benefits for this system are far-reaching. It will place the Ontario mapping industry in a leading role in Canadian and international markets. This, in turn, will create the opportunity for new U.S. and overseas markets.

It will directly create 135 to 200 high-technology jobs in Ontario. It has the potential to create indirectly an additional 250 or more jobs for Ontarians in Canadian and overseas contracts.

It will help to bridge the transition from conventional to computerized mapping technologies, ensure standardized computer products and provide marketing opportunities to stimulate both industry and government awareness.

A computer mapping system will offer many rewards to the user, the province and to private industry. However, before we can implement such a system, we must gather the information in digital form and then test the system's capabilities.

I would like to outline how we will proceed with this testing. We plan to produce about 600 computerized Ontario basic maps of selected northern areas each year for the next two years. The production of these maps will be contracted out to the Ontario mapping industry. This industry has gained valuable expertise in computer mapping technologies and techniques over the past several years. A market analysis will also be conducted during this time. At the end of the test period, my ministry will analyse the results and provide recommendations on how to implement this system at a provincial level.

This government has already articulated a firm commitment to technological advance. The testing of this computer mapping system will bring us one step further towards implementing a comprehensive provincial mapping tool.

Mr. Harris: I congratulate the Minister of Natural Resources on his announcement to continue with the computer mapping. I did not hear anything on the remote sensing program that was started at the same time a couple of years ago, with Board of Industrial Leadership and Development funding, and the experimental project that started in Cambridge two years ago to prove the technology by MNR on the computer digital mapping project.

On a disappointing note, while all of this mapping is going on in northern Ontario, not a comment was made about the technology being developed in northern Ontario, about the jobs going to northern Ontario or about any economic benefits to northern Ontario, even though that is where the mapping is taking place. Those are the types of areas we are concerned about. Consistent with the budget we saw yesterday, everybody seems to be ignoring the north over there.

Mr. Laughren: I would like briefly to commend the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) for the computerized mapping program he has announced and, in keeping with the comments made by the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), encourage him to ensure that those significant numbers of jobs are located in northern Ontario, since that is where the initial mapping is going to be done.

2:42 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Mr. Grossman: My question is of the Treasurer. In preparing budgets, Treasurers always go through the range of economic predictions for growth in Ontario from various leading indicators and various leading sources. Will the Treasurer share with us the predictions for economic growth in Ontario offered by the banks and the Conference Board of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is true the economic policy experts in the Treasury provide on a regular basis a range of the projections from the various banks, the conference board and also some of the projections from American financial and economic institutions. I am not prepared to rhyme off the variety of projections that are a part of that. They change as the views of the growing economy and the opinions of these economists change as time goes forward.

Mr. Grossman: I ask because I suspected the Treasurer was perhaps unfamiliar with them, which he should not be, or not willing to share them with us, which he should not be.

The conference board, which the Liberal Party of Ontario has always held up as an accurate beacon and forecaster, predicted 4.9 per cent growth for Ontario for this coming year. The conference board is held out by most other objective observers to be a pessimistic forecaster.

Yesterday the Treasurer based all his budget expectations, including his revenue, not on 4.9 per cent, which the conference board says, and not on 4.4 per cent, which is the lowest range we could find among major institutions, but on 4.2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Grossman: With the revenue we suspect the Treasurer is going to get from the real growth, which most people say will be somewhere near five per cent, he will generate approximately \$900 million in additional revenue during this coming year.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Grossman: Why did the Treasurer not project a revenue forecast and growth for Ontario closer to the mid-range of all the other averages instead of the most pessimistic one anyone can find?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I remember the then Treasurer, now the Leader of the Opposition, being somewhat embarrassed that the Conference Board of Canada had a pessimistic outlook for Ontario when he was managing our economic affairs. I can remember bringing to his attention, somewhat to his embarrassment, something he did not know, which was that he was paying \$100,000 for their views at the time when they were shooting very low in the projections for Ontario.

Mr. Grossman: Not as low as the minister is projecting.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Now that they are over-shooting, I do not say I am a bit gun-shy of those projections, but we simply put them in with the other projections as points of interest which affect my views and the views of the economists in the Treasury. Unlike the then Treasurer, I have a good deal of confidence in the officials of the Treasury. They worked for him; they work for me. I know they are assiduous in their reviews of all the indicators, and the bases of the budget projections are essentially those numbers provided by the economists in Treasury. I do not apologize for that. In response to his original question, the range of projections is there. We have a chance, around the same board table he used for so many years, to discuss those

alternatives. I take the responsibility for those projections, and I get them from competent officials.

Mr. Grossman: If the Treasurer did not understate his expectation of growth so there would suddenly be approximately \$1 billion in unreported revenue coming in in the course of the next 12 months, which he will have opportunities to spend, shall we say at a later date, on day care, on living up to his election promises, on getting rid of Ontario health insurance plan premiums and on the meal tax concession, can he explain to this House why he rejected all the other advice and came in at the most pessimistic guess for growth in Ontario of anyone we can find?

Mr. Speaker: Treasurer.

Mr. Grossman: On what did he base his own pessimistic outline?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I have the reputation of being conservative and careful, and I do not object to that. We feel these projections are reasonable for the present fiscal year. If the growth of the economy is greater than those projections, this House will know about it as soon as I know about it. The conspiratorial approach to politics that characterizes the questions from the Leader of the Opposition bothers me somewhat. He has referred publicly to some ulterior motives, which he might find in his own mind but which are not in mine nor in the minds of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Grossman: If they are not, let the minister tell us why he has 4.2 per cent and everyone predicts—

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Martel: That was a new question.

Mr. Grossman: No, it was not. It was a prediction that later on in the year they will have hundreds of millions of dollars—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did not recognize the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). New question.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Grossman: I have a question for the Premier. Consistent with what we have seen developing into a pattern and not inconsistent with the events we were complaining about a moment ago, the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), instead of being at question period to provide information to this House, is at this very time meeting with the Ontario Hospital Associa-

tion to announce to them his plan to hand out money to hospitals over the next few years.

I want to begin by registering our concern with that sort of arrogance. In the minister's absence, can the Premier explain how capital allocation for hospitals, currently running at about \$170 million, as reported in the budget yesterday, is going to turn into a marvellous new program, given that he has promised \$850 million over five years, which as we calculate it, is a continuation of \$170 million a year? How is that an expansion of hospital funding?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I find the member's question somewhat curious. Regularly in the last couple of months, he has been yapping about underfunding of the hospitals. I hear that quite regularly from him. Now he is making it appear as some kind of sin that the honourable minister would meet with the OHA, which was delighted with the government program. It is delighted with a long-term commitment and an ability to plan in the long term, something it has not had in the past. The member should talk to the OHA and not to me. He seems now to be begrudging it that money. Now that we have entered into long-term planning, the member seems to be regretting that very much.

The minister is doing exactly what he should be doing today. He is discussing the long-term planning with the OHA. We are committed to addressing some of the capital shortfalls that have developed during the last 10 years. The member is seeing real action from this government.

Mr. Grossman: The Premier clearly does not know the answer to the question.

I invite the Premier to explain to me how this is such a great new program for the hospitals when, on page 39 of the budget, it indicates that capital for health this year is \$168 million. Would he be kind enough to explain to us how \$850 million over five or, as we read in the paper this morning, maybe eight years turns out to be more money than \$168 million per year?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member will be aware of the frustration of the OHA and others with the short-term approach the previous government took. The members opposite will recall the capital allocations a year ago and how, in their dying days, they increased the allocation, how they fiddled around with them, kept them on tenterhooks, announced and reannounced and things did not happen.

They are expressing a great admiration for the new approach of this government, the long-term commitment and the ability to plan, deal in

candour with them and not use them just for political purposes. That is why the member sees the OHA and other responsible health care professionals stand up and say, "It is about time we had this open-arms approach."

Mr. Grossman: I want to invite the Premier again, when he has finished those great speeches, to share that speech about lack of forethought or planning with London Victoria Hospital, Parkwood Hospital or any of the other hospitals in London where this government approved those very major projects. They are up and running, thanks to a lot of foresight, planning and commitment, in those two projects alone, involving much more than \$200 million.

I am not going to let the Premier continue to avoid answering the question. In a great new announcement, he has alleged he has \$850 million over five years or eight years. How does that amount to more money than \$168 million per year? It is flat-lining. Can the Premier explain any other version of that money?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: May I at the outset thank the honourable member for the compliment on the quality of representation that London has had in this Legislature during the last few years with respect to the capital facilities in that great community. It is our desire that the other communities be as well represented.

Mr. Grossman: Let us hear the answer.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sure the member has read the budget. He is aware of the commitment to cancer facilities, which have been, in our view, shortchanged during the last little while. A whole succession of announcements was made with no real funding coming forward. They are seeing that.

I ask the member to talk without his political motivation to people who have a completely different view of this situation. He should, in fairness, bring their quotes into the House when they talk about the brave new day this province has entered into.

Mr. Grossman: I asked the Premier to answer the question. He does not have a clue what is in this budget.

3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) contain himself. He has had an opportunity. Will he please give an opportunity to the member for York South (Mr. Rae).

Mr. Rae: It is important that those of us who do not have children in the gallery get a chance to ask a question as well.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Treasurer. I am sure he is aware that in 1981 one could earn the princely sum of \$1,880 in Ontario and not have to pay any provincial income tax. I am sure he also knows that sum has now been increased, thanks to his generosity and compassion, some six years later, to \$2,075.

How does the Treasurer feel about the incredibly parsimonious and cheap treatment given to the working poor in this budget? Why does he not raise the amount to a decent level so people who are making \$4 and \$4.50 an hour can make that money without having to give so much of it to the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I wish the tax reduction program could have been richer. I ask the member to compare it with the initiative taken by the government of Canada in its first budget following the election of the Conservatives in Ottawa, when it wiped out the tax reduction program completely and at the same time offered a substantial loophole on capital gains to the other end of the income spectrum.

In direct response to the honourable member's question, both in last year's budget and this year's budget, I increased the amount allocated for tax reduction at the low end of the income spectrum. I wish it had been more, but in my judgement, that was what we could afford at this time.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer mentions the other government in Ottawa of blessed memory. We are aware of what they have done.

It is fair to say the Treasurer is \$49 better than the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) was in 1984 when he was Treasurer. Does the Treasurer not realize he looks good and he was able to increase the amounts only because the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), when she was Treasurer, reduced the amount that could be earned from \$2,000 to \$1,433 at the stroke of a pen on June 19, 1985, by means of regulation? Does he not realize that he looks good only in comparison to that?

When the Treasurer compares himself to any standard of the past prior to that time, when he compares himself to what is fair and just, he has been rather measly in the kind of the treatment he has given to our lowest-paid people in the province.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I look forward to the comments from the member for York Mills when the member for York South accuses her of making me look good.

At least I had the opportunity to reverse that decision and to strengthen the income tax reduction program. I have already indicated that I wish it were more, and I know all members here wish it were more, but that is the allocation of funds at this time. I hope the member and his colleagues will support it.

Mr. Rae: Time will tell. I say to the Treasurer—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Time will tell when we get a supplementary too.

Mr. Rae: How does the Treasurer feel when he realizes that in this year, prior to the budget, his government gave an extra \$65 million to the doctors practising in Ontario, a group that can hardly be considered to be underpaid, whereas by his own admission, when we total up the Ontario health insurance plan changes and the minuscule changes in the amount of money one can earn without paying any taxes, it looks like it is going to be \$35 million, not this year but next year?

How does the Treasurer feel when he makes that kind of comparison, when we are looking at literally one million Canadians living in Ontario who are poor? That is the treatment he has given to them, and to roughly 17,000 doctors he has given an extra \$65 million.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Along with many other citizens of Ontario, I felt a cold hand on my heart when the increase in the doctors' revenues was approved. It was an agreement, entered into some years ago by the previous administration, that was described by some honourable member in this House as an occasion when the previous Minister of Health and Treasurer was wrestled to the ceiling by the doctors. However, that commitment is one this government inherited, and naturally, we maintained it. The fact that we are now at an end of that agreement simply means we will have the honour of negotiating with the medical practitioners on that basis in the future.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: Now that the Treasurer has spoken at such length about the cold hand on his heart with respect to doctors, I would like to turn my question to the Premier and ask him whether it is true that his Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), who unfortunately is otherwise engaged at this time, stated to the press outside the scrum after the cabinet meeting this morning that a decision had been reached with respect to the schedule for the bill on extra billing. Is it the case that Bill 94 will be brought forward in the very near future?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is the case. The matter was discussed in cabinet this morning. We had an update from the minister, who had attended a meeting, I believe this week, with the Ontario Medical Association. There is another meeting scheduled next week, but the minister will convey to the OMA that unless very substantial progress forward is made, we will have to move on legislation.

Mr. Rae: Gee, that sounds positively draconian.

Mr. Breauth: Cold hands, cool heart.

Mr. Martel: He had them by the throat, not the heart.

Mr. Rae: Given that we have the reports today, and I am sure the Premier has read the comments by Dr. Moran that he is offended by the attitude of the Minister of Health, and that when the minister said any progress was being made he was simply being "sly and clever," to quote the words used by Dr. Moran, what is the test going to be in terms of progress being made? We have now had 10 sessions, and there has apparently been no change in position on either side, yet at various points the Premier has said progress is still being made. Those of us who are mere laypeople looking on are rather baffled by this process. Nothing changes and yet progress is being made. How do we determine whether progress is being made?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the member's difficulty in understanding the proposition. Let me give an analogy. Sometimes the member gets flowery in his rhetoric for public consumption, but when it comes time to vote, he knows how he votes. That is the kind of situation I am talking about.

Sometimes people such as Dr. Moran use language in a certain way, and perhaps we are all guilty of doing that at some time or other. We do not have to construe these remarks in the newspaper as necessarily being indicative of all the true feelings. I do not think we have to negotiate these through the newspapers. I am sure the member understands this phenomenon.

There have been 10 meetings, as he says. Some were more constructive than others, but we have said that they know our position, which is very clear. We do not want a system in which any patient pays extra; it is that simple. Unless there is very substantial progress made towards those ends in the next meeting, we will have to review the other options.

Mr. Rae: It is hard to vote on legislation when the government does not bring it forward. If the

Premier will bring it forward, we will vote on it. All we are waiting for is for him to bring it forward, if he has the courage.

Mr. Martel: Like the transit workers. Does the Premier remember them?

Mr. Rae: Given the extent of the delay this government has inflicted on patients in the province and the extent of the dithering and the kind of faldral that has gone on, does the Premier not agree that it would only be fair for the government of Ontario to use at least some of the money that is now in escrow in federal funds to compensate patients who have had to transfer their benefits to doctors who have been extra billing over the past year because this government has been responsible for the delay?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I heard that principle espoused this morning, but the logical extension of that is to go back to 1967 and pay people—

Mr. Rae: No.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: For what period? What about the time back to the Canada Health Act being passed? Then we would have to track everybody down. I see that as a rather complicated process.

I suspect those people who have been extra billed, and believe me I am not happy about it, would be just as happy to see those funds going into cancer treatment facilities, new hospitals and other medical programs that we so desperately need in this province. I think every member in the House agrees.

Mr. Grossman: The member has offered all the money to the Ontario Medical Association.

Interjection.

Mr. Grossman: Does he make the member proud to be a friend of his? Does he make him feel good? It still makes the member proud to be in bed with him, does it not?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Grossman: My question is to the Premier. The Premier and his ministers have made quite a fuss generally, and in the budget yesterday, about the alleged massive increases for the Ministry of Health and hospitals. In the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Health's budget increased by exactly 10.8 per cent. Can the Premier explain why the Ministry of Health's budget went up by 8.4 per cent, for a 2.4 per cent reduction, in yesterday's budget?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I remember the budgetary manipulations of the previous government. In the last Conservative budget, the government cut back on the transfers. Then in the dying days of the government after the election, before the Conservatives left office, they added one per cent to that. They were worried about losing the triple-A credit rating. Then they put a lot of pressure on this House to keep that extra funding, which they did not grant in the first place. The Conservative government kept these transfer agencies and hospitals on tenterhooks and did not allow them to do the long-term planning that was so necessary.

Everywhere I go, people are responding in a very positive way to our program and to our approach of taking a long-term view of the situation. They are convinced of our sincerity in trying to rectify some of the problems the Conservative government caused.

Mr. Grossman: Can the Premier explain why the increase in the Ministry of Health's budget last year was 10.8 per cent while the increase in the budget yesterday was 8.4 per cent, for a 2.4 per cent reduction?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: In drawing up the budgetary allocations on the basis of need and long-term planning, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) has made the commitments he thinks are necessary. Generally, they have been extremely well received by the transfer agencies. It may bother the honourable member personally, but the people out there are very happy about the positive program that has been brought forward by the Treasurer.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Foulds: I would like to raise a question with the Treasurer on behalf of my two sons, who are in their classroom in Thunder Bay and will not be watching this on television.

The Treasurer tells us that he has a revenue windfall of more than \$2 billion in his budget and that the provincial unemployment rate, at 6.8 per cent, is the lowest in Canada. If the Treasurer's revenues and the economy are so buoyant, how does he justify only \$12.5 million being in the community economic transformation agreement fund this year to help restructure those northern and eastern Ontario economies when the payroll at the Great Lakes Forest Products waferboard plant in Thunder Bay is \$5 million, at Algoma Steel it is \$45 million for those who have lost their jobs, and at Kimberly-Clark it is \$70 million for those whose jobs are threatened?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The honourable member refers to a windfall. It is true that a buoyant economy increases revenue. The expected revenue change at the time of the budget in October 1985 was about \$1.6 billion; we expected that as an increase. The increase we are now projecting on the basis of the available figures is about \$2 billion. We know the economy is going forward. At the same time, the cost of many programs is expanding at an even faster rate than that at which the economy is growing, not the least of which is the medical program the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman) mentioned a moment ago.

The member should be aware that the so-called windfall is about \$400 million to \$500 million and that the actual cash requirement was reduced by almost exactly that much, plus a little bit more. It may be that the reduction in cash requirement should have been directed towards other programs. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition and the member, as a spokesman for the New Democratic Party, criticizing me for having bad judgement in that regard. However, as Treasurer, I have to make that judgement.

We felt the cash requirements should be reduced to about \$1.5 billion. At the same time, we have allocated the revenues and our projections of revenues to the various ministries and programs, many of which are old programs and some of which are new, on the basis of what we consider to be equity, fairness and meeting the needs of the community at large.

The member mentioned the community economic transformation agreement fund particularly. This is for the economic transformation agreements, and it is not a new program. We did not dream it up. It was an old one, and while I mentioned it during the speech yesterday, the members of the previous government were patting themselves on the back. There is no reason why they should not. I think the concept is a good one. It is a very flexible fund which is available to municipalities that are experiencing special difficulties in not sharing in the general growth, particularly one-industry towns. When I mentioned CETA, I referred to Sault Ste. Marie particularly. The additional funding is \$25 million over two years.

Mr. Foulds: When we cut through the Bill Davis verbiage, what specific steps are there in the Treasurer's budget to combat an unemployment rate of 13.2 per cent for northern Ontario, twice the average of the province, and what specific steps are there in the budget to ensure and guarantee those more than 4,000 jobs that

are being threatened in the northern Ontario economy?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: First, I cannot guarantee the jobs; I wish I could. The specific programs are an additional \$10 million in the north for health and transportation; an additional \$5 million for new education programs; an additional \$17 million for the northern development fund; the restoration of the 65 per cent processing allowance in the new Mining Act, which is much sought by the mining community; and an increase of 13 per cent in our funds for the forestry programs, up to \$271 million. We expect the forestry programs to have an export basis of \$3.5 billion.

I have only three points to go. The CETA program already referred to in the main question is being funded to the extent of \$25 million in two years. We have a new entrepreneurial support program, which is designed for northern utilization for men and women and which we think is going to be of particular use. We have increased our skills funding to the level of \$275 million for training and retraining. Finally, small business development corporations have been strengthened and perfected for northern utilization.

TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Miss Stephenson: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. In 1983, the government then in existence provided in its budget a seven per cent tax exemption for the purchase of heavy trucks and trailers. That was specifically designed to buoy a struggling trucking industry, which had been hard hit by the 1982 recession because the industry had experienced a 33 per cent reduction in traffic in that carrier activity during the recession period. It has not yet recovered from that.

Does the minister believe that withdrawing that exemption, which is going to cost this beleaguered industry something in the order of \$65 million next year, will be in the best interests of the trucking industry in Canada, particularly in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I understand the nature of the honourable member's question, but since it is really one for the Minister of Revenue, I would like to redirect it to the Treasurer and Minister of Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Is that all right with the member for York Mills?

Miss Stephenson: It makes no difference to me.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the Minister of Transportation and Communications redirected it to the Minister of Revenue. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: All of the things the honourable member has said about the history of the exemption are true. The sales tax on heavy trucks was removed as an economic stimulus to part of the economy that was under severe stress. Since then, the trucking business has grown very substantially. We are the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not apply the sales tax to heavy trucks.

3:20 p.m.

We believe as well that because of interprovincial agreements on sales tax, many trucks owned and operated outside the province get the advantage of this exemption, which is not to our advantage in this jurisdiction. We feel that with the return of an expanding economy, the trucking industry should be asked—I did ask them, and I intend to put the legislation before the House—to pay the seven per cent sales tax on heavy trucks. We believe that to maintain an expanding road system, we have to have revenues not earmarked but available to support those new commitments.

Miss Stephenson: The Treasurer, whom I am delighted to have answer the question, has noted that he spoke to the Ontario Trucking Association, which represents 900 members. That association wrote to the Treasurer, asking for a reduction of two cents per litre fuel tax for truckers, which also did not occur. That accounts for something like \$50 million a year in costs to the trucking industry in Ontario. That is in addition—

Mr. Speaker: Is your question to the Treasurer, "Do you agree?"

Miss Stephenson: No, that is not my question, sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for it.

Miss Stephenson: That is in addition to higher labour costs, higher workers' costs, more compensation costs and more prohibitive insurance rates than their American counterparts. Since much of the carrying is being done by American truckers as a result of this, does the Treasurer believe he is putting Canadian and Ontario truckers in a competitive position with this kind of additional cost that he is levying?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: No one likes to raise taxes, but in this instance I believe it is justified on the basis that no other provincial jurisdiction has continued this exemption. We believe Ontario ought to see that there is a fair and judicious allocation of the tax revenues. In this instance, it is my recommendation to the Legislature that the exemption be removed.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Ramsay: I address my question today to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. As the minister will be aware, during the past several weeks the oil companies have allowed the price gap between leaded and unleaded gas to widen. The gap across the province today is about three cents a litre, although experts tell us the price difference should not be any more than 0.4 to 2.4 cents a litre.

I want to know why the minister is allowing this. Is he not aware that if one takes the lowest price difference of 0.4 cents a litre, Ontario consumers are being ripped off today by the oil companies of this province at a rate of \$2.9 million a month?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member asks why I allow it. I have said to the members before that there is no legislation at present that allows me to prohibit it.

Mr. Martel: In 1968 I asked the following question of the minister of the day: "Is the government considering discussions with the oil companies in an effort to overcome the more than five-cents-a-gallon differential between the south and the north?"

An hon. member: A gallon.

Mr. Martel: A gallon. This past week I paid 26.4 cents a gallon more in northern Ontario than in Toronto on the same day. Will the minister tell me how that ripoff can be tolerated and how the oil companies, from the time they converted from gallons to litres, have been able to increase that price differential from five or six cents a gallon to anywhere from 25 cents to 30 cents a gallon? It is a ripoff. He knows it. What is this government going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: As members will know, I have been in communication with the oil companies. To tell members the situation—

Mr. Martel: Is that not a wonderful answer? That is what they think of the north.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: So that my answer to the honourable member who is asking about the tax on trucks will not be misleading, I want to add that the tax will not go into effect until January 1, 1987. There is the remaining period of this year

for any purchases to be made without the tax being imposed.

Miss Stephenson: While I thank the Treasurer and Minister of Economics for that response, I am not sure his long-term planning, much vaunted in other areas, is very good in this area.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Miss Stephenson: I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Will the minister please tell me how much money his government will be spending on capital funding for each of the community colleges and the universities? I am talking not about each community college and each university, but about the college system and the university system in 1986-87.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: This is a matter I dealt with in response to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grossman). I do not have the figures in front of me, but as I recall, the total spending for the current fiscal year, 1986-87, will be about \$55 million on the university side. I am sorry I do not have the figures for the college side at this time, but I will provide the answer to the honourable member in the very near future.

Miss Stephenson: In 1984-85, the community colleges and universities in this province received a combined total of \$60.5 million in capital spending. Yesterday's budget revealed that the government, because it is all going to be done by the Imelda who does not have shoes but who apparently has capital funds for construction, will set aside \$59 million of capital spending for both of those systems of institutions in the upcoming year. How is the minister going to justify giving post-secondary education \$1.5 million less in the next year than it was given in 1984-85?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As the member points out, we are approaching the funding of capital spending in what is a dramatically new and different way in this government. As the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) pointed out yesterday, he and this government are trying to approach spending by looking at ongoing expenditures based on revenues and by looking at investment—that is, capital spending—in a separate way.

The member was the minister for a number of years. She knows the requirements for universities and colleges on the capital side are dramatic. One of the reasons they are dramatic in 1986-87 is that, under the government of which she was a member many years ago, there was a freeze on capital spending, so that what we inherited was an accumulation of need, which we will be

dealing with during the next several years. We are not going to be able to respond to all of those needs in the short term or, indeed, in 1986-87.

With the new approach that the Treasurer, the Chairman of the Management Board (Ms. Caplan) and I as the minister will help to implement, I am satisfied that those needs for capital on the university side will be far better met than they were under the administration she was a part of.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, who has been unable to protect northerners from exorbitant gasoline prices.

The minister will recall that a year ago his party, in a document, stated two points. First, government expenditures on the King's highways are low in northern Ontario, given the proportion of highways that are located there; and second, it would place a priority on improving and expanding the provincial road network throughout the north. Those statements were made just prior to last year's election.

Can the minister tell us why he was unable to convince his government to target major funds, which would create major employment throughout the north, by targeting those kinds of funds towards highway improvements across northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I would like to remind my friend the member for Nickel Belt that the budget for highways in the north went up this year. He can look at the budget.

Mr. Bernier: It went down.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Attendez un peu, Monsieur. Fermez-vous pour un moment. Restez tranquille.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Vous, vous l'aviez descendu le budget. Vous l'aviez descendu. Moi, je l'ai remonté. Mettez-vous ça dans la tête. He put it down, and I put it back up again.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have reminded members before to disregard the interjections; they are out of order. Does the minister have any response to the question?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I would like to say that the members are always asking that kind of question on that side. They should refrain from doing so and ask their questions directly instead.

First of all, the budget of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines went up on

highways and, second, other money was also allocated to highways. There is going to be more money for highway construction. I would like my honourable friend to wait for a few weeks to see yet more money coming for highways through reallocation of funds.

Mr. Wildman: Considering the comments in the budget about the bumpy roads in this province, and considering that this government has embarked on a very bumpy road because of its lack of response to the problems of the north, can the minister take the opportunity now to announce a major program to increase the infrastructure in the north to provide for economic development and to provide jobs immediately? What new programs over and above what he has already allocated is this government going to make available to provide jobs and better transportation facilities in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First of all, my honourable friend has been here for a long time and he should know that highways are not built in one day; it takes about five years to make plans. Right now, we are going to spend the money available at this point and there will be some more in the next few weeks.

I would like to remind the member that I cannot tell him all the projects today because I am not the only minister involved. There are 22 other ministers who are going to respond on projects in northern Ontario in the next few days.

Mr. Harris: Perhaps the minister could check page 39 of the budget document, wherein it shows the capital for roads and transportation in northern Ontario is down from \$108 million last year to \$106 million this year. Can he explain how a \$2-million cut translates into more money, or does he have some slush fund that he says will come out in the next couple of weeks that the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) does not even know about?

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Cela me surprend beaucoup la manière dont le député de Nipissing me répond, car il doit avoir eu des slush funds lui-même dans sa vie parce que c'est lui qui est en train de me montrer quoi faire avec l'argent.

He is the one who is going to show me where the slush fund is because his party is used to the slush fund. I am new here and I have never used a slush fund. His party has. Maybe he thinks there will be an election pretty soon. I will do as they do and go from town to town and give out little cheques. That is what they had to wait for in the last 42 years.

The money is there. If he will look, there is another section about \$10 million for transporta-

tion and health. It is in English, not in French. The member for Nipissing should not worry; there will be money for the roads this year, next year and in the years to come.

Mr. Harris: The minister surely knows by now that it is not just the members of this Legislature and the Treasurer who were disappointed yesterday with what happened in the north; the people of the north are not happy. The government has no promised tax credit in the budget, no move on gas prices, nothing on gasoline taxes. Now we see less money being spent on the roads in northern Ontario than last year. On top of all that, why is there a cut of \$3 million in the economic development fund, from \$20 million to \$17 million, this year?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I should remind the ex-Minister of Natural Resources that today he is only an MPP. He should read the document. The \$17 million is new money and there is \$3 million for the northern Ontario regional development program. I cannot go on and on; there are too many things for the north in this. The people of the north will judge.

Le monde du Nord va nous juger en temps et lieu. Lorsqu'il y aura une élection, le monde nous jugera à ce moment-là. On va voir qui va avoir raison. Ça va être lui ou bien moi, l'un des deux.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will once again ask for order. You are just using up the time for other members' questions. I can wait.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Ms. Gigantes: My question is to the minister responsible for women's issues. I am angered by the tokenistic approach taken in the budget to issues on which the Liberals made such fine promises to women in Ontario just one short year ago. Where is the funding for 1986-87 to provide equal pay for work of equal value for women who work directly in the Ontario government or for agencies such as hospital boards, schools boards and municipalities which are funded through the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I did not get the last part of the honourable member's question.

Ms. Gigantes: Where is the money?

Hon. Mr. Scott: For what?

Ms. Gigantes: For equal pay for work of equal value for the government's employees and for the employees of the agencies it funds.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The government has introduced a bill that will implement equal pay in the public sector. When the bill is passed, the member may be certain that the money will be provided. I also draw to the member's attention the fact that a very substantial commitment has been made in the budget to child care, to employment equity and to a number of other matters that this government regards as very important and that I am proud to be able with my colleagues to introduce to the House in due course.

Ms. Gigantes: It takes a bit of nerve to state in the budget that child care is recognized as a basic public service and then provide a measly \$6 million in extra funding. Most of the funding we are spending is coming through the federal government. Where is the so-called comprehensive plan for child care that got beat around in cabinet, and why is child care still being treated as a welfare benefit in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Scott: If the member had read the budget after hearing it, she would have heard the words twice. They indicated that a comprehensive child care plan will be announced by my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) very shortly. In addition to commenting on this government's commitment to the announcement of that plan, the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) yesterday indicated as a firm sign of faith that actual new money was being committed to the project right now. I am proud of that achievement. I have no reason to apologize for it.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Gillies: My question is to the Treasurer. In view of the continuing unacceptably high rate of youth unemployment in this province, why did the Treasurer in his budget flat-line the expenditures of the government on youth employment programs at \$175 million?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In conjunction with the allocation for youth employment and skills development, there was a substantial increase in the funds available for skills development in general. The two funds together now total \$275 million.

The Futures program has been successfully received in all parts of the province. It will continue and will be adequately funded, as indicated in the budget. In addition, we have doubled the amount available for general skills, which will be applied particularly to more senior workers who have been unemployed, let us say age 40 and older, to minorities, to women and

specifically to young people. We have a \$275-million commitment not only to the skills development of young people but also to general skills policy, and this is an addition of substantial funds.

Mr. Gillies: I thought my question was fairly specific. In the previous budget in October 1985, the Treasurer said he would be increasing the funding of the youth employment programs from \$175 million to \$200 million. He did not do it. Why did he not do it?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The program as it has been established across the province is adequately funded at present at the dollars that were allocated, but we feel we also have to provide additional skills instruction and opportunities for people who do not fall into the age group of 24 and under.

3:40 p.m.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. McClellan: I have a question for the Treasurer arising out of the statement on page 12 of yesterday's budget, wherein the Treasurer states that he has asked his Treasury staff for a review of the financing issues related to the indexing of Ontario's two major public sector pension plans. I am sure that statement has put a cold hand on the hearts of those who contribute to the public service superannuation fund and to the teachers' superannuation fund. Since the Treasurer is opposed to indexation of pensions for private sector workers, does this mean he is now moving towards opposition of indexation for public sector workers' pensions?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The answer is no, I have no thought to move towards any program to stop indexing. It is not my intention. I put it there and I explained—perhaps in a news conference; not to the House—that we are concerned about the adequacies of the funding of the Superannuation Adjustment Benefits Act fund.

Mr. McClellan: If the Treasurer supports the continuing indexation of public sector workers' pension funds, why on earth is he so dug in and intransigent on the issue of extending indexation to private sector workers and private sector company sponsored plans?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Unlike the honourable member who pursues this line of questioning, I am more committed to the private funds than he is. If we impose indexation on funds of the type that are currently established, they will simply disappear. There is no law that says there has to be any of these private funds at all. Surely the

alternative the member is referring to is some addition at the provincial level to the Canada pension plan. Maybe that is something that should be reviewed.

We had a pension committee—my honourable colleague the Premier (Mr. Peterson) was a principal member of it—which reviewed all the alternatives. I can assure the member that report is well worth reading.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Of the 13 per cent increase in budget the ministry got this year—about \$54 million—how many millions will be used to pay for the beef stabilization payments from last year and the rest of the payments for the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction programs and the pork payments?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am sure the member must be criticizing the agricultural budget with tongue in cheek after he received the Ontario Federation of Agriculture news release which has as its heading, "Province's Farmers Welcome New Budget." I quote: "Harry Pelissero, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, welcomed the initiatives announced in yesterday's provincial budget."

Compare that to the OFA news release which came out in 1984 when the Conservatives were in power:

"The provincial budget blatantly ignores the immediate critical needs of the farm sector,' the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture said in Toronto. 'This budget has no news as far as agriculture is concerned,' Harry Pelissero said. 'The Treasurer has totally ignored the urgent needs of a growing group of farmers. It is obvious that Mr. Grossman has chosen not to respond to these needs.'"

I cannot accept the member's criticism. No matter how he slices the pie, the increase in the agricultural budget since we took power 11 months ago is 39 per cent. That is all new money.

Mr. Stevenson: I do not recall issuing a single word of criticism. I asked a very simple question. Of the 13 per cent increase in budget that OMAF got this year—\$54 million—how many millions of that budget increase will be used to pay for the beef stabilization payments, the rest of the pork payments and the OFFIRR programs?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Those payments will be made with the money that was dedicated for that purpose in the last budget. The \$70-million increase in this budget will not be used for those ongoing stabilization programs.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question of the Treasurer in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston). The Treasurer's allocation of \$850 million for hospital capital over the next eight years works out to \$106 million a year. How is that possibly going to meet the capital needs of our hospital system in Ontario when the Ontario Hospital Association has indicated the requirements over the next decade on an annual basis are two to three times the amount he has allocated?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Part of it might be that we expect the expenditures to be in support of construction over the next five years. Anything that is not completed then will be funded as that aspect of the construction winds down.

When we talk about a three-to-five-year funding plan for hospital construction, we intend to make an announcement adding a year as the years go by. I do not describe that very carefully, but it is not simply a five-year plan that will be put in place and then nothing else done.

It is essential that we take whatever decisions are necessary to continue the sorts of planning on a medium-to-long-term basis. That will give the members of this House an opportunity to support and criticize what those decisions are and it will give the hospital boards an opportunity to plan for their future development. We think this is a businesslike responsibility on our part, and I am glad it has been so well received by the hospital association.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does the Treasurer understand that from fiscal year 1978-79 to fiscal year 1985-86, in 1986 dollars, the provincial government spent \$1,096,000,000 on capital? This budget will provide for a decrease over that same number of years of \$246 million. How will long-term planning make up that quarter of a billion dollars?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am convinced that with the careful research that has gone into the development of this plan the needs of the broad community of Ontario in establishing better and improved hospital services will be met. This is a commitment the government has made, and we believe the \$850 million is sufficient at this stage to accomplish that over the next five years.

There are many other things that will be coming forward in health care. We are committing \$10 billion this year to health care all in. This is just a shade under one third of the total provincial budget.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Grossman: The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) said a moment ago that

the payments referred to by my colleague would be paid out of last year's budget, not this year's budget. Can the Treasurer confirm or deny that?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I was not paying careful attention to the answer. I am sure what the honourable member said is correct. He knows the Treasurer is supporting the program he described. The Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program is an initiative the minister brought forward soon after the election of the new government and it is one that is well received by the farmers in all parts of the province.

PETITIONS

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Jackson: In response to yesterday's budget, I have more petitions coming in as well as the one from 3,000 constituents tabled yesterday, requesting the government of Ontario to reduce the gasoline tax. I hope the Treasurer will try to listen today.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Henderson: I have a petition from a number of my constituents and citizens of nearby ridings:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference; and

"Whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call upon the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

That petition is signed by 200 constituents and citizens of ridings nearby to Humber.

3:50 p.m.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask a question and am looking for your assistance. I asked the minister a question concerning gasoline prices in northern Ontario, and he refused to reply to it. I asked the same question 18 years ago and the minister of that day said it was not supplementary. Can you tell me which political party has enough clout or enough courage to take on the gas companies and protect the consumers of northern Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Since the standing orders have changed, I am not just sure of the number, but I believe it is standing order 30 that the honourable member has the right to use in order to acquire some information from the minister.

MOTIONS

WITHDRAWAL OF BILL Pr41

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that, at the request of the applicant, the order referring Bill Pr41, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton, to the standing committee on regulations and private bills be discharged and that the bill be withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the select committee on energy be continued and that its terms of reference established by order of the House on July 11, 1985, be amended to provide that the committee report on its inquiries on Ontario Hydro affairs on or before May 29, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the select committee on energy be authorized to meet following routine proceedings on Thursday, May 15, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that membership on the select committee on energy be as follows:

Mr. Andrewes, chairman; Messrs. Ashe, Charlton, Cureatz, Gordon, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Haggerty, McGuigan, Sargent, Taylor and Ward.

Motion agreed to.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSE TO PETITION

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 19 to 45, 92, 97, 107, 108, 109, 125, 135, 145, 146, 147, 148, 152, 153, 154, 155, 170, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 221, 222, 224, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 236, 237, 238, 264, 266 and 275, and the interim answers to questions 250, 258, 259 and 260 standing on the notice paper, and a response to a

petition presented to the Legislature, sessional paper 318 [see Hansard for Tuesday, May 20].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Miss Stephenson: I am rising to participate in the early stages of this debate with some feelings of ambivalence. I am delighted that indeed there has been an improvement in the revenues of Ontario. I am disconcerted that so little is being done with so much.

We are viewing yet another chapter in the continuing soap opera across the House, the Liberal Search for Tomorrow, which began in something of a fog a few weeks ago with their forward-to-yesterday throne speech and continues with the haze produced by this budget. Just as the throne speech was considerably less than meets the eye, so is the budget much less.

A budget is supposed to explain the government spending priorities as well as its taxation priorities. How in the world can anyone comment with accuracy on what this government is planning to do or is thinking about doing or is going to do when approximately \$300 million of tax revenue appears not to have been allocated within this budgetary exercise?

I believe the people of this province deserve to know what this government intends to do with their tax dollars. For a government without walls, without barriers, without impediment, without any kind of obstruction, my only question is, why all the mystery. Why can the Treasurer not tell us what it is he is going to do with the money, which actually belongs to the taxpayers of Ontario? Why does he insist on raising suspicion and on producing grave concern? Why is he not being honest and why does he not indicate clearly where each tax dollar is going to go?

I have a feeling that if the Treasurer, member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), ran his farm the way he seems to be running the finances of this province, he would have been out of business long before that boomer from Huron could have come to his door to provide him with dollars from the farmers in transition program to persuade him to leave the land.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank God for Jack Riddell, the farmers say.

Miss Stephenson: That is not what the farmers say, but then the Treasurer cannot hear that.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: How does the member know what the farmers say?

Miss Stephenson: I know a lot of farmers, as a matter of fact. Is that not astonishing?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I have not heard one farmer talk about the member.

Miss Stephenson: Is that not a shame? The minister does not talk to very many farmers, obviously.

Traditional liberalism, it seems to me, calls for as little government as possible. That was what I always thought was Liberal philosophy. I gather it has changed. Peterson liberalism in this province apparently calls for a government with as few ideas as possible and as much direct intervention into people's lives as possible.

We saw the government's lack of imagination and its lack of insight in its throne speech. In this budget we see more repeat announcements on previously announced programs over and over again than farewell tours of most ageing opera stars.

Think of the real opportunities this government has as a result of improved finances. Think of the real opportunities this government has—or had—to provide for real achievements for the people of Ontario, real opportunities to tackle the challenges that face the people of this province. Unhappily and regretfully, just as in the throne speech, these opportunities have been missed by more than a country mile.

Instead of showing real leadership, real imagination and real courage and initiative, the government at present, according to the throne speech and the budget, resembles nothing so much as it does a school of minuscule minnows circling and nibbling at the major concerns of the people of Ontario and devouring none of them.

The people of this province are looking for good, thoughtful, real leadership. They are looking to the government for new initiatives, for individual effort, for new strength and for new encouragement to economic growth, especially in the small business area. They are looking to the government for leadership to provide opportunities for young people, for the elderly, for the unemployed, for the needy and for all who face unjustifiable and very considerable barriers.

They were looking for answers. They were looking for responsibility and for caring. They were looking to the government for hope, actually; some hoped that in this new government

they might find a feeling of belonging in a Liberal Ontario.

From this budget and from its preceding throne speech, there is precious little they can find to make them feel comfortable in a Liberal Ontario—no sense of belonging, no sense of caring and certainly no sense of the traditional Liberal philosophy.

4 p.m.

In an attempt to be politically shrewd, the government, I believe, is not speaking with the real voice of leadership but with only the echo of that kind of voice. They are skulking in the cemetery of old Progressive Conservative programs, old ideas, well-worn theories. The Treasurer has dragged them all up and used them; he is rattling all of them with his hands. He appears to believe he can manage this province with the concepts discussed among members on this side, not just five or 10 years ago but 15 years ago. Really, he is not that far behind the times, I believe.

When the Treasurer talks about the shortcomings of previous restraint programs occasioned by the worst recession, the most difficult economic times, faced by any jurisdiction or any area of jurisdiction in recent memory, the shortcomings he mentions are those of insufficient numbers of hospital beds, portable classrooms, constrained university budgets and bumpy roads. He is also talking, and he does not seem to realize this, about the very vivid shortcomings of his own budget and of the government of which he is an integral part.

It seems to escape the government that it is now its responsibility to lead this province. It seems to escape the government that it now has the responsibility to conjure up new ideas, or at least to develop some imaginative thoughts and to put them into practice for the people of Ontario. It is very easy to criticize and point fingers, which is precisely what this government has done for 11 months, but it has done absolutely nothing to provide solutions for the problems the people are facing. That is simply not good enough; it is not good enough for any government, but certainly not good enough for a government that has spent as much time criticizing previous governments in this province as this one has.

Ontario is looking for leadership to tackle the problems of the 1980s and the early 1990s. Thanks to falling energy costs and an economy that continues to grow at a rate that appears to surprise the Treasurer—it overwhelms him with surprise, and he is paralysed—this government

has found itself with a revenue windfall of approximately \$2.6 billion. We predicted a windfall in the range of \$2 billion and \$3 billion, and we were not far wrong.

That windfall is thanks to the remarkable strength of the economy of this province. We lead the other provinces in Canada as we have always done. We have led Canada in economic growth, and our economy continues to grow, I believe partially at least as a result of the legacy of excellent management provided by previous Progressive Conservative governments in Ontario.

The Speaker will recall that last June, when the members opposite were wringing their hands about the state of the economy in this province, I told this House Ontario was experiencing its best rate of growth since 1972 and that rate of growth was going to continue. It has continued, in spite of the gloomy predictions of the Treasurer in August, which gloomy predictions immediately had the rating agencies examining carefully all their information and deciding that Ontario should lose its triple-A rating.

In spite of the Treasurer's gloomy forecast, our province's economy has been growing twice as fast as I predicted. The Treasurer is still using ultra-large-C Conservative figures in any projection he makes for the future of the economy of this province. We foresaw that growth. The members of the government today obviously did not foresee that growth. We had faith in Ontario. Apparently, the Treasurer and his colleagues did not, and I fear at present may continue not to have that faith in the strength of the economy of Ontario.

We look at the things this budget has left out. We look at the things the Liberals promised so glibly to all the people for these 10 years I have been around, and particularly during the election campaign of 1985—glowing promises, almost not one of which they have been able to produce. They have neglected to consider seriously following up on those promises.

We look at their promises for programs for single parents. We look at their promises for child care, and then we look at the programs they have produced. We have to mention very clearly that even the Treasurer has described these initiatives as not too impressive and not enough. We are not impressed on this side of the House either. Obviously, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) can have no power in cabinet. He is at the mercy of the Premier's (Mr. Peterson's) trendocrats, who seem to be running the government of Ontario.

We look at the initiatives for colleges and universities, but all the Treasurer has done is to expand the existing university research incentive fund. It is not a new approach; there are no new insights, no new programs and precious little money. The Treasurer says he is expanding the Ontario skills fund, but all the emphasis on employee training can be accomplished by expanding existing programs, those that were established, I might remind the House, by the previous Progressive Conservative governments.

The Treasurer talks about expanding scientific programming on TVOntario. Does he really believe that television programs are going to boost or improve industrial involvement in high technology? Are they going to assist experienced workers with retraining and provide the bridge to a new high-technology world? Is that what the Treasurer believes?

There is truly nothing new here and nothing substantial. The Treasurer has to admit he announced it all last fall anyway.

Let us talk about high technologies and new technologies. This was the flagship promise of the throne speech. This was going to be the key initiative, the great vision for Liberal Ontario for the 21st century. What a hollow vision has been presented by this government. We know that technology is changing the face of the world economy. We have known that in this province for more than seven years, and we have been doing something about it. We know that new manufacturing processes are making people more productive and cutting costs dramatically.

We know that job creation in the high-technology industry has increased at nearly twice the rate of more traditional sectors. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will remind the Treasurer that was why we set up the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development more than five years ago, a program the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) at the time claimed was already in disrepute in most circles.

My, how times change; how dramatically they change. What was in disrepute with the leader of that party five years ago is now world-class because it is what that government has introduced. What was criticized as ineffective is today presented as the new vision for Ontario. Vision? That is hindsight. I am afraid the Premier has shown about as much backbone on technology development as his Minister of Energy (Mr. Kerrio) has on the sale of tritium to the United States.

In the spring of 1985, we proposed the enterprise technology fund for this province, which would allocate—

An hon. member: I will be right back.

Miss Stephenson: The Treasurer can read it all anyway; he need not bother. Obviously, he is not the least bit interested in the concern of this party for the future of Ontario as a result of his budget. There are not even any members in the House. I should not say that. The member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) is here, the good and faithful member of the Liberal government, and the gloom of doom from here on is still here, as well as the member for Downsview (Mr. Cordiano). I welcome their presence and I hope that perhaps their numbers may increase this afternoon, but I will not hold my breath.

4:10 p.m.

In the spring of 1985, we proposed the enterprise technology fund, which would allocate \$250 million over a three-year period to boost high-technology adoption by Ontario industry and open up a whole new era of co-operation among business, government and research institutions. We opened negotiations with the federal government to obtain matching federal funds for a good deal of this activity.

What does this government do at this date in 1986? It is going to spend \$100 million this year on its technology fund, but there is absolutely no framework for action proposed in any of the documentation. There is nothing in the speech from the throne or the budget, and we have no idea what it is going to do.

Under our program, we had established the criteria for action. We had told business precisely what it could expect from us, and we had linked funding with skills training commitments that would have been assessed by the Ministry of Skills Development and would have ensured significant improvement in skills training in this province. Unhappily, that is not a part of anything we have seen so far.

I am a bit concerned because I do have some commitment to skills training, and I wonder whether there is a quorum in the House to listen to the response of this party.

The Deputy Speaker: There is a quorum present.

Miss Stephenson: The commitment we demonstrated clearly to skills development and to linking that skills development to the enterprise fund would have ensured the setup of appropriate training programs throughout the province.

Mr. Runciman: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I do not believe there is a quorum in the House.

Mr. Polsinelli: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: A quorum call was requested a few minutes earlier. The members were present, and at least five Conservative members walked out.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Call in the members.

Mr. Polsinelli: On a point of order—

The Deputy Speaker: There is no point of order once a quorum call is made.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

4:14 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum being present, the member for York Mills.

Mr. Epp: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to point out that just a few minutes ago a quorum was asked for; there was a quorum here. Some members from the Conservative benches then indicated they would leave so there would be no quorum. They deliberately left to create—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. That is not an appropriate point of order.

Mr. Bernier: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The record should show that there were only three government members in their seats.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a proper point of order.

Mr. Gregory: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) is imputing motives to this caucus.

The Deputy Speaker: First, that is not a point of privilege. If it were a point of order, it would not be a proper point of order.

Miss Stephenson: The program we had begun last year would have established the specific requirements for skills training within any company assisted through the Enterprise Ontario activity. Commitments would have been made that would have been assessed by the Ministry of Skills Development and would have ensured that appropriate training programs were set up making use of the firm's own resources as well as the resources provided by local secondary schools, community colleges, universities and private institutions. That was a very good plan. The funding and the framework, the criteria and the direction were established and clearly laid out.

This government, after a year in office and 42 years of Liberal policy conferences, Liberal discussion groups and Liberal study of all the problems, has nothing to provide for us but

rhetoric about skills development—absolutely nothing. There is no timetable for action. There is a promise of some funding going somewhere to do something, and that funding is going to be directed by a council not of respected representatives picked by labour and industry, as we had proposed, but by a council hand-picked by the member for London Centre from all of his friends—a curious proposal for a government without walls, barriers, impediments or obstructions.

Appointment to a key committee shaping the technological and industrial future of our province apparently is completely in the hands of the member for London Centre. The Treasurer, I remind members, talks about decaying infrastructure and bumpy roads, but it is within his power to do something at this time. He is, I remind him, the Treasurer of Ontario and the Minister of Economics. I hope members are aware that that expenditure and the increase in that expenditure are at higher rates than those of any other government in Canada at the present time, and I am not sure this is something to be proud of.

The member for London Centre used to say that at least one quarter of the province's roads were in disrepair and getting worse. Now that he is in a position to do something about it, that concern is apparently forgotten. To insult and disparage the trucking industry of this province, the Treasurer then lifts the sales tax exemptions for the purchase of heavy trucks and trailers. This blow to an industry that has not yet recovered from the pain, the trauma and the difficulties of the very severe recession in 1982 is a major matter of lack of concern on the part of the Treasurer.

4:20 p.m.

It is little wonder the 900 members of the Ontario Trucking Association are today absolutely up in arms. They say that with this budget, the Treasurer of Ontario has without any question won all the votes of the US trucking firms that are going to be doing all the business in Ontario. Is that what the Treasurer wants? I am not sure that will return him to his position after the next election.

Let me remind the Treasurer that his budget is supposed to work with and for all the people of Ontario. What benefit the Treasurer hopes to achieve by enraging the trucking industry is a mystery, as are some other things related to this budget. I am afraid it is simply more evidence of this government's arrogant and cavalier attitude towards all the groups that make this province

move. There is no doubt that the guys on the other side of the House would rather fight than govern. They are fighting with everyone. That seems to be the only style they understand.

Allow me to remind the Treasurer that the trucking industry carries an estimated 60 per cent of all the goods and supplies in this province on an annual basis. That is more than the combined traffic of railways, buses, pipelines, ships and aircraft. Lifting the exemption on the purchase of new equipment for the trucking industry will not help to reduce the cost of transporting goods in this province, nor will it help the automotive industry. It will make all our trucking less competitive than its American counterparts and will ensure the demise of a significant portion of the industry.

What about the gasoline tax? This party is on record as opposing the government's increase in gasoline tax. Last fall, my esteemed colleague the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) stood in this Legislature, and despite the criticism and disbelief of the members opposite, stated very clearly that the price of gasoline was going to fall. They did not believe it, but it is too true. He also said the government's proposal to increase the gasoline tax would gouge the motorists and truckers of Ontario.

We have seen the price of gasoline fall quite dramatically. Had our ad valorem tax remained in place, the tax would have fallen significantly as well. With the windfall this government enjoys, we could have seen the gasoline tax rolled back even further than we forced it to be rolled back last fall. We certainly would have forced it to be rolled back in northern Ontario.

Considering how little has been allocated for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, it would have been fair for this government to roll back that gasoline tax. It would have kept faith with organizations such as the Ontario Motor League, considering how little the government is willing to invest in our transportation infrastructure. Apparently good faith, fairness and clear vision are concepts that seem alien to the current government of Ontario.

I ask members to look at health care. Let us look at the promises that were made, promises that emanated from the members of the government in this House and during their election campaigning. Let us match those promises with the real performance outlined in the fine print of yesterday's budget from the Treasurer.

The government talks about improving hospital facilities. The Treasurer talks about the shortfall of hospital beds. What did the Treasurer

propose yesterday? The budget he provided talked about an \$850-million hospital expansion for a period of more than five years or eight years, depending upon the rapidity with which the construction can be carried out. It is the same amount of money whether it is five years or eight years. On a five-year basis, it works out to about \$170 million a year. That allocation comes nowhere near to answering the real challenge of expanding hospital facilities to meet the real needs of the people of Ontario. The Ontario Hospital Association has urged that capital grants be increased significantly in 1985-86, let alone in 1986-87.

I am afraid the Treasurer and the Premier have been hearing siren songs from the wrong voices when they suggest the members of the Ontario Hospital Association are delighted or satisfied or even grudgingly appreciative of whatever is being proposed in the budget, because the Treasurer is not dealing with the real crunch. They are trying to walk around the issue, nibbling at it like a group of minnows, when what we need is true leadership in this area.

Let me remind the government that we proposed the creation of new community-based clinics providing care at the Ontario health insurance plan rate to reduce the pressure on emergency departments and to assure access to care for all in Ontario. We were looking at imaginative approaches to health care, and we were looking for some matching kind of imagination in approaches to health care in this budget from this Treasurer, but there is no imagination there—none.

The suggestion that the planning is going to satisfy the hospitals is ludicrous. I wonder what the Treasurer believes the hospitals have been doing for the past 15 years—planning and having allocations made on a rational health care needs basis, not on the basis of the decision of the grand duchess of Management Board about whether the provincial government's political needs will be met by whatever allocation is going to be made. That is what it says in the budget. It says every capital allocation must meet the criterion of the determination of the needs of the government. That is crass political activity. This is not worthy of inclusion within the budget of Ontario, and it is not worthy of the character of the Treasurer.

We have heard a lot of talk about dental care. We know the campaign promise that was made was actually a reincarnation of a 1974 program at 1974 allocation levels.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The Conservatives promised it in 1943.

Miss Stephenson: It was in 1974 that this program was investigated in terms of cost, and the cost in 1974 dollars was approximately \$50 million. That is what the leader of the government offered as a promise for dental care in the election campaign of 1985. The only thing he did not do was to look at the actual increase in cost. In fact, the program they were proposing in their election campaign would now cost, according to the best calculations by the Ontario Dental Association, approximately \$325 million a year, not \$50 million.

I guess that reality was borne in upon the Treasurer. That campaign promise, he said, was not going to be able to be met for the time being. In fact, he was not sure when it was going to be able to be met in spite of the fact that they promised it to the people of Ontario, who were looking for some kind of commitment. What do we see in the budget? We see precious little in dental care. We see nothing at all for improved dental care for senior citizens. The Ontario Dental Association predicts that to set up an adequate program to meet the needs of the working poor will cost between \$7 million and \$10 million.

4:30 p.m.

In this budget we do not see any announcement of dollars, but it is stated in the budget that there will be a program for school-aged children who have urgent dental needs. It will not be a program of prophylaxis. It will not be a program of preventive dental care. Apparently, it will be a therapeutic dental program to extract the carious teeth of children whose parents cannot afford to have them go to a dentist and whose school system or public health system does not provide a dental care program. It will address the needs of approximately 50,000 to 60,000 schoolchildren in all of Ontario, and it will not be a comprehensive program. That is a far cry from the campaign promise of this government in 1985.

However, I remind the House that we do not see any real announcement of dollars. We have heard what is likely to be allocated this year, something in the order of \$5 million for the program, which probably will not even cover the cost of the program. We have not had any announcement of the implementation date or how the program is going to be set up. This is just another fractured election promise.

I remind the Treasurer that this government is on record as saying it is its intention to eliminate OHIP premiums immediately, and it has approached this in a very bold way.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Not immediately; gradually.

Miss Stephenson: That is the Treasurer's word. I am speaking to the Treasurer. I remind the member for wherever—Kitchener something. Kitchener what?

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Kitchener-Kitchener.

Miss Stephenson: Kitchener-Kitchener? Kitchener squared, that is. I remind the member that he has not been in this House for the past 10 years, as I have, when the present Treasurer and the current leader of the government stood up in this House and said they would immediately eliminate OHIP premiums as soon as they came into power.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: No way.

Miss Stephenson: The Treasurer should read some old Hansards, and he will find—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I read my old speeches constantly. They are marvellous.

Miss Stephenson: I am not sure I would go that far.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order. Ignore the interjections.

Miss Stephenson: The leader of the government most certainly has said he would immediately eliminate OHIP premiums, and he may have been afflicted slightly by the gradualism of the Treasurer when this budget includes a statement that they will nibble away at the OHIP premium matter. They have gone into a program which in fact does not eliminate the premiums for 35,000 people but reduces the premiums by some small number to zero for 35,000 people in Ontario.

Instead of concentrating all of its efforts and energies on its continued confrontations with lawyers, doctors and pharmacists in this province, would it not be more appropriate if the government considered seriously addressing the real problems of the health care system, just as its excellent member for Humber (Mr. Henderson) has suggested on so many occasions? They need to look at the concerns regarding the health care system which have been raised by any number of people who have come to speak to us in this House and in the committees.

We have recommended an immediate injection of at least \$300 million in hospital funding to allow for expansion, new construction, new equipment which is specifically needed, and improvements within the facilities. The people of this province were looking for leadership. What they have been offered is a school of minnows.

What about the agricultural community? The Treasurer states very clearly that the farmers are experiencing the worst conditions in Ontario since the 1930s. The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) does not remember the 1930s and therefore he has no reference point. The Treasurer proclaims very loudly a 39 per cent increase in ministry funding. In fact, that increase is about one third of the amount announced by the Treasurer and the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The Liberals said they would be doubling agriculture's share of the budget, but the Treasurer has achieved a 0.2 per cent increase in his budgetary activity for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. That is not a very significant step in the direction of doubling the agricultural budget.

I do not believe there is anything in this budget to encourage the farmers to stay on the land. I remind the Minister of Agriculture and Food that my mathematics is considerably better than his rhetoric in terms of what he is achieving. His language is not necessarily the most pristine in most circumstances, nor is it always accurate. I suggest very strongly that there might be some improvement in those directions.

There is nothing in this budget to encourage the farmers of this province to stay on the land other than the programs that were introduced last summer, almost one full year ago. I remind the minister they are programs that have failed to meet their goals in almost all circumstances, programs such the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, which swamped the applicant farmers in paperwork so they had trouble surfacing out of all the stuff that was required of them by the ministry, and the farmers in transition program, FIT, which did not fit anything and was really a misfit for any kind of agricultural activity.

These programs were justly viewed with suspicion. No one could qualify for FIT. There was not a fit for FIT in Ontario, and FIT has flown as a result of that. Unhappily, there was a copying exercise, which was a copy of the old copying exercise by federal governments, which usually copied the best, but in this case not the best, programs introduced by the government of Ontario.

When this government tackles the real challenges that are facing rural communities, apparently it decides the solution is to remove the farmers from the land. As far as this party is concerned, I must tell the members we are not all farmers but we have great sympathy for farmers.

This is no solution to the problems of the farmers in Ontario. Removing the farmers from the land is a shortsighted, ill-advised, ill-conceived abortion produced by the government of the day.

We want to see the kind of action that would help farmers meet the ends they have to meet to survive. We want to see action that will help them through the current slump in commodity prices, because therein lies the real problem for farmers. We want to see action that will provide leadership to protect our markets against the US farm bills. We want to see the kind of action that will address the real problems that are facing rural communities—action that keeps farmers on the land and does not persuade them to leave it.

In the last session my colleague the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) in his wisdom, and it is great, introduced a resolution urging the government to give added strength to rural communities. He wanted to attract the kinds of industry appropriate to their needs and relevant to the farming communities.

On this side of the House we believe there has to be greater development of small-town Ontario. We believe there must be encouragement to communities with a rural lifestyle to develop the kind of growth appropriate to that kind of lifestyle, which will enhance their role as producers of food in Ontario. We want to see the kind of development that means jobs in those areas and that means young people can enjoy the same kind of opportunities their parents had to build a life, a career and satisfaction in their jobs in their own home towns in rural Ontario.

All the Treasurer has done in this budget is to reintroduce the community economic transformation agreement program introduced more than two years ago by the previous government. What kind of strength does he give to this announcement? He allocates \$12.5 million a year for the next two years, and that is all.

In the 1984 budget, the previous government and this party allocated \$20 million a year through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development for such community transformation. Over the same period of time for which the Treasurer has proposed this program, alas, we would have spent \$40 million, not \$25 million as the Treasurer is suggesting.

4:40 p.m.

Indeed, the Treasurer has the temerity to include in that suggestion that this program will serve the needs of Sault Ste. Marie, which is faced with the very difficult problems at Algoma Steel. He has the temerity to suggest that \$25 million in two years will assist Algoma Steel

solve the difficulties it is facing in Sault Ste. Marie. If the Treasurer believes that, he is either suffering from abject ignorance or he is providing a continuation of the kind of insulting behaviour this government has exhibited towards the north ever since it became the government of Ontario.

What we are hearing from this government reminds us very vividly of the statements of a former leader of that party who suggested that he would go to Sault Ste. Marie practically on pain of death, but he would not go any farther north. The north was foreign country as far as he was concerned. Obviously, it was Stuart Smith.

Mr. Bernier: Oh, Stuart Smith.

Miss Stephenson: Yes. Obviously, that kind of attitude pervades the members of the Liberal government of Ontario, and there is no commitment by this government to the problems of the north. We need support for development in rural communities, we need support for communities in the north, we need support for one-industry communities and we need support for cities such as Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and others facing real difficulties.

However, Sault Ste. Marie requires much different attention from the kind the Treasurer is suggesting. I believe \$25 million over two years is evidence of only one thing: the government does not care about what happens up there.

The previous government provided the Sault with more than \$25 million in new services and waterfront development to help its economic future. The government of this day surely can do more than it is suggesting right now for the Sault and for other communities in the north, and it should be much less reluctant to suggest that it can do more.

The government also makes an attempt to talk about the needs of eastern Ontario as if it understood them, but when it comes to taking action, there are absolutely no specifics. I think you should warn them, Mr. Speaker, because you know the people of eastern Ontario will not accept that kind of attitude. The government has to be serious about the support it is going to provide, because if it is not, the people of eastern Ontario will see right through its transparent suggestions.

Let the government tell the people of eastern Ontario right now how much it is going to be making available to that section of the province through the increase in grants to tourism, if there are any. Please, Mr. Speaker, ask the Treasurer to offer the people of eastern Ontario something more than Peterson potties dotting the roadsides

of the highways in the eastern part of our province. Ask him to tell them how much is going to be allocated for their area under the community economic transformation agreement program. Are they going to have to share this minuscule \$25 million over two years? Is that what the government is proposing for them? Are there any other programs the government is going conjure out of a hat, or is it saving some of that mysterious \$300 million of undesignated funds for activity related to the needs of Ontario east of Toronto?

Why does the government not try giving them a plan for a change? Give them some specifics, give them a timetable, but I beg, please do not give the kind of patronizing gobbledegook that was found in this budget and in the speech from the throne. They do not deserve that kind of treatment from this government.

The same is true of the north. There is nothing new in the budget for the north. The programs that have been announced in the budget have all been announced before. Here we go, reannouncing our final and ageing opera star tours all over again. The ageing opera star, of course, is the Treasurer, who keeps on announcing all the things that were announced last summer, last fall, in the last budget, in the speech from the throne and now in the budget again. I wish he sang better; it might make the sound a little more melodious.

Let us have some specifics. Let us have a timetable. Let us have some indication of where this government is going or whether it knows where it is going; therein, I believe, lies the question. Let us know as well whether it is sincere about living up to its promises, and then perhaps, in the words of one of my former colleagues, we might rejoice at some of the things the government is doing. But will we rejoice at any of this? Not a bit of it.

The people of northern Ontario deserve much better than the Treasurer has offered them. From the kinds of documents and comments that keep coming from this government, the people from the north hardly recognize that they have a minister sitting in cabinet. Why did that minister not speak up for the north on the issues that affect it? Why did he not speak up on the promises his party made in the last election campaign? Why did he not speak up for equalized milk prices for northern Ontario or, better yet, about rolling back gasoline taxes there?

Unhappily, the minister apparently sits complacently in his comfortable cabinet chair and does not lift a finger on behalf of the people he

purports to represent. Today, what he did was to give a very rude and Liberal indication of the kind of concern he has for the people of the north. He gives bold speeches, but when there is real work to be done, where is he found?

An hon. member: Asleep in the House.

Miss Stephenson: No; lounging in his chauffeur-driven limousine in Toronto.

Interjection.

Miss Stephenson: That is factual.

In the throne speech, the government promised immediate action to set up a high school of technology in the north. It is a somewhat antediluvian suggestion that it should be at the high school level when it could have done much more, but between April and May, that immediacy melted away completely and even that antediluvian idea has dissipated into the mists of the Treasurer's budget. The promise is absolutely nowhere to be found.

If the government is really interested in improving training for technology in the north, why did it not say something about it in the budget? There is not a word, and there is not enough of an increase in the education sector of the budget to provide for that kind of construction, nor is there any indication that there will be any money to provide for that kind of program in the Ministry of Education's allocation.

This Treasurer and this government have the capacity of that marvellous magician from Winnipeg who can make the Empire State Building disappear. They can make all kinds of things disappear in the short space of time between the throne speech and the budget.

Mr. Epp: What about Suncor?

Miss Stephenson: The government made it disappear, and I am not sure it did it very responsibly either. I am not sure the Treasurer had the financial interest of the people of the province at heart when he carried out the deal.

In the throne speech, this government promised immediate action to set up a northern tourism strategy, but that promise did not even make it into the budget speech, although I must admit it was remembered in the ministry press release. However, there is not a word about it in the budget speech. Is that not an important initiative for the north? It is in the press release, but again there is no timetable, no facts, no solid material, no plan of action.

4:50 p.m.

Where is the marketing strategy that supports the government's new advertising campaign in tourism? That ad campaign is made up of a fake

lake and all those make-believe general stores in photographs. Why does the government keep all the data to itself when it could help the operators of the tourist industry in this province improve their lot as far as tourism is concerned? Nothing is made available.

The Treasurer says we will have the best tourist year in history. That is absolutely true. There is almost no doubt that will happen. Americans will flock to Ontario because they are terrified to go to Europe or the Middle East. We will obviously enjoy the benefit of that influx, which is not because of anything he has done for tourism—not one thing. It is because of the fear of terrorism on the airlines.

Mr. Gillies: They are going to be drawn here by the Peterson potties.

Miss Stephenson: I cannot believe it is the Peterson potties that are going to attract them to the province. I cannot believe that is the only initiative this province is going to take in eastern Ontario for tourism purposes. Surely the Liberals' minds rise a little above that, but I am not sure. Yesterday I heard that all of their commitments in the budget to child care were to provide small-sized toilets for children in current child care facilities because they were not there.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: You started out this morning talking about them.

Miss Stephenson: No, I did not. The Treasurer started out this morning. If he would stop interrupting, it would be fine. I listened patiently this morning to what the Treasurer had to say; I really did. I did not interrupt him once. It would be nice if he would return the courtesy, just briefly, this afternoon.

We have made public some of the things we would have done had we had the opportunities which face the Treasurer this week. We have said we really wanted to look at the needs in the housing industry in Ontario. With the windfall of money, that is precisely what we would have done. We said many new funds have to be made available for the construction of affordable housing. A new look should be taken at approaches such as shelter allowances, not the same old thing they are doing.

What did this government do? We never had \$3 billion of a windfall with which to do it in the 10 years I have been here. Otherwise, we would have done it, believe me. We got this province through the toughest recession it has faced since 1929 and we did not increase the deficit significantly, we did not lose the credit rating and none of our institutions fell apart.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Ignore the interjections and address your comments to me.

Miss Stephenson: I do. You know I have been addressing all this to you.

We expected some bold approaches from a government that had almost \$3 billion in hand.

Mr. Villeneuve: In 42 years to work with.

Miss Stephenson: They had 42 years of talking about what they were going to do and 11 months of planning. We expected some really bold approaches. What did we get?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: You are saying what my wife says.

Miss Stephenson: What the Treasurer's wife says is, "Promises, promises." I know that. Poor Dorothy.

Waiting lists are growing for nonprofit housing in this city alone. That figure has grown very dramatically over the last five years of very severe recession and the beginning of improvement. This government is all over that problem, just like a school of minnows, nibbling away at it, devouring none of the problem, solving nothing. It proposes subsidized housing for fewer than 5,000 people with low incomes. That is not going to address the problems of those who need housing in this city, let alone in this province.

In the meantime, the government party tries to paper over its inability to act by paying people to wait on lists for subsidized housing. It is using tax dollars without getting the needy one step closer to safe, affordable housing. That is not a solution. It is a cop-out and unworthy of this Treasurer.

In our party, we have proposed job training programs for the experienced worker, but the Liberals have been acting true to form. They have ignored the needs of experienced workers in their latest budget. They pay lipservice to them in one phrase and that is all. They ignored their needs in the throne speech and again they have ignored their needs in the budget.

No funds are set aside specifically for retraining. There is no mention of them at all in the high-technology fund and no mention of the expansion of training in business and industry programs which was successful in retraining 90,000 workers in high technology in one year in this province. There is not one word about that, and I am afraid most of it has been destroyed by the Futures program, which is all puff and no substance.

Experienced, laid-off workers apparently have no place in this government's vision of Ontario. They are forgotten on the breadlines while the member for London Centre swaps ideas from back issues of Popular Science magazines with his cronies on the technology council. That is all they are going to do. They have no idea about where they are going or the kinds of things they are going to do, except to provide \$15 million to universities, which had been provided before.

We would want to set up programs to ensure that experienced workers continue to have a chance to achieve their potential until they choose to retire. The government's talk about doubling the budget of the Ministry of Skills Development is sleight of hand, for the most part. From the budget which has been presented, it is obvious the Treasurer and the government have no idea what they intend to do with that money except to throw it at the problem.

It is a very confused budget, as a result of confused and fuzzy thinking across the floor of this House. I believe this province will have none of it. On this side of the House and in this party, we believe the experienced workers of this province, such as the laid-off steelworkers in the Sault, deserve as much of a break and as much of a chance to make a contribution as Donald MacDonald, Bob Elgie or Russ Ramsay. We feel strongly about that and we hope the government will do something to ensure that chance will be given them.

What about our young people? Have they been abandoned as well by the Treasurer in his budget? They have certainly been abandoned with that wreck of a program called Futures, which cannot create any new jobs or opportunities for them at the same rate at which we were creating those training opportunities for many years and which this government again aborted to make way for this idiot smoke program called Futures, which has more advertising than it has training potential.

There has to be a much better way to do this, a much better way than this government has proposed. There has to be a new approach which will ensure that the young people of this province enjoy the fruits of recovery as much as other segments of our society. It appears that, for the most part, this government has turned its back on that problem.

We would look at new programs for the environment. In our last throne speech, we proposed programs to preserve our lakes, shorelines and beaches. We provided significant funds for the improvement of our beaches. We would

also look at necessary environmental community services. We would work to ensure a secure supply of abundant fresh water, which remains the right of all citizens of Ontario.

5 p.m.

What happened in this budget? The school of minnows did not even mention environmental concerns. Truly, many concerns sparked by this government's ham-fisted approach to environmental concerns have been evident. Having raised concerns about the quality of our drinking water, they have retreated from the issue in this budget. All they are doing is developing a testing mechanism; they have done nothing constructive.

They have smeared the reputation of the great community of Sarnia, while ignoring the genuine concerns and worries of the residents of that area and those who reside in surrounding communities. That is not responsible leadership; that is simply gutter politics and that is the kind of activity in which this government has been involved.

Five million dollars is proposed for more studies. We know studies are important, but now is the time to act to allay the concerns they have raised with their ham-fisted approach. We know where the problems are; let us get to work on them now. This government would rather have the whole province and all its people living in a state of fear about the environment than take concrete and responsible steps that need to be and should be taken now.

The major increase in the allocation for the Ministry of the Environment is funding which does not even belong in the Ministry of the Environment; it belongs in the Ministry of Health's allocation. That is the \$15 million for hospital waste disposal, which is properly a Ministry of Health concern. Why try to deceive the public with claims of increased environmental financing when it is the work of another ministry they are talking about? That is not plain dealing. I fear that the good common earth sense of the Treasurer has been overcome again by the trendocrat friends of the Premier.

What about taxes? What about this government's fiscal plan? The Treasurer is always proud to proclaim there are no major tax increases in this budget. Considering the windfall he has received, why should there be any increases of any kind? Why should there not be a reduction of taxes? The Treasurer does not like people to know his last budget in October 1985 raised taxes twice as much as the federal budget did for the people of Ontario. He does not like

that information to be spread about, but he should know increased taxes are causing concern.

The May 10 issue of the *Financial Post* warned that tax hikes could be major obstacles to growing consumer spending and warned gravely against them. Consumer spending has powered our economy in its recovery over the last three years, and the Treasurer should remember that. At a time of economic growth, we should be seeing lower taxes, not higher taxes. We should be seeing tax rollbacks and not be satisfied with simply holding the line or increasing one or two only slightly.

The Treasurer is very well aware that the Ontario division of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has warned this government that the tax burden on manufacturers now compares unfavourably with competing jurisdictions. This burden is making Ontario an expensive place to do business. This burden is making it more difficult for the industries of this province to compete with Europe, the United States or the developing nations.

Let us not forget that a dynamic private sector is the only guarantee we have in our province that Ontario will be able to satisfy any demand for extensive improvement, or even slight improvement, in social programs. That is where the engine is that makes social programs run. I remind the Treasurer that high taxes are eroding that guarantee in this province. They are also eroding our province's ability to act and react quickly in the event of negative economic movement.

I fear this government is painting itself into a corner from which even our strong economy, based upon the efforts and the genius of individual Ontarians and not upon government, will be unable to rescue it. We will not be rescued by those characteristic traits of the people of Ontario if that corner is so tight they can do nothing about it. That is what the Treasurer is doing.

On this side of the House and in this party, we believe the most productive money in Ontario is the money which remains in taxpayers' pockets. That is the money that creates jobs; that is the money which is invested and creates new industry; that is the money which provides growth in Ontario. It is not the money that is taxed away into the Treasurer's coffers that provides those stimuli which are necessary for economic development.

After reading the Treasurer's budget, one would have to believe he does not share the view of this party of the value of that specific money.

Since he has taken office, taxes have continued to rise in Ontario as a result of his actions—\$750 million worth since October 1985.

I remind the Treasurer that the economy is not simply a never-ending source of revenue for treasurers of Ontario. I remind the Treasurer that economic growth needs encouragement, especially if it is to be directed to areas of need if we are going to break down the barriers caused by geography, education or background.

I think at this time the Treasurer should have had the courage of his convictions to roll back some taxes to give businesses and the individuals of this province a real break; not, for heaven's sake, the introduction of the improvement of the sales tax on fast food to exempt it to \$2. All that means is that the guy who is going to buy fast food is going to be able to buy an extra cup of coffee. He is not going to be able to survive on that.

Why does the Treasurer not give them a real break? Leave more of those creative dollars in the pockets and the hands of the people who produce the real wealth of this province and make this province run. That is not the government, but the private sector—the workers, the employers, the industry and the businesses of this province. Why do we not do that to try to fuel the improvement in our economic development? I do not get an answer, so I will go on to the next point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, what about the deficit? This Treasurer had the rare opportunity, an opportunity that has come seldom to Treasurers of this province over the past decade, to move towards a balanced budget.

An hon. member: They had it for 10 years.

Miss Stephenson: We did not. We had it for one year in 10 years.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We reduced the cash requirements by close to—

Miss Stephenson: Piddling.

The Treasurer had the opportunity to really attempt a movement to put finances in this province in the kind of order that he has proclaimed and declaimed about for the last 10 years that I have been around here. What did he do? Nothing.

As early as 1984, we predicted that, given the growth in the economy, it was possible to balance the budget in three years. A balanced budget, I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, is still very much a possibility.

5:10 p.m.

What has this Treasurer done? He has not dealt with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; he has not dealt with the recession problems; he does not even know what it is all about, apparently. What has this Treasurer done? I ask, what has he done?

In the first budget he brought in, he boosted the deficit by \$300 million. That was his choice of activity.

This budget, he boasts, reduces the operating deficit by \$263 million. He brags in this budget about reducing net cash requirements this year by \$85 million. We know how much effort the Treasurer has put into debt reduction. We know this boasted-of \$85 million is about equal to the average level of transaction conducted by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics in one day in this province; one single day out of 365. That is an achievement when he has almost \$3 billion in his hand? Come off it. The Treasurer should have the courage to admit he is doing nothing to reduce the deficit or the provincial debt in any real fashion.

He should admit that during all those years when he sat on this side of the House and criticized the debts of previous governments, he did not mean what he was talking about, because when he has the opportunity and the money, he does nothing about it. He had the chance to do something to reduce the province's operating deficit in a meaningful way, but what did he do? He blinked instead. He backed off and he did not have the courage to stand by those convictions he so loudly proclaimed for so many years from almost this seat in the Legislature. Not very long ago either, I remind him.

Let me remind the Treasurer of the words of his predecessor, not me, but the last Liberal Treasurer in Ontario, St. Clair Gordon, who said in his last budget that it was "good business to pay your debts in good times." We are in good times now. The Treasurer has the best opportunity this year that has been available for the past 15 years to do something, but I fear the Treasurer is renegeing on his debts and failing to follow the precept of his learned predecessor.

If, in the throne speech, the government failed to live up to its own buzzwords about excellence and world-class achievement, in this budget it has not even made an attempt to do so. Not so much as an atom of energy has been expended in that direction. After 11 months in office, we have a government that is totally tired out. They are not thinking on that side of the House. They are exercising no imagination. There is not even a glimmer of imagination coming from that side of

the House, except from our good colleague the member for Humber.

What is on the opposite side of the House is a group of extinct volcanoes.

An hon. member: Not even smoking.

Miss Stephenson: No, they are rumbling occasionally with memories of past explosions, but they are cold and they are dead and they are absolutely incapable of any future eruption of any kind. The fires have gone out. There is heart-rending cold on the opposite side of this Legislature.

An hon. member: I heard the member's waterbed had burst.

Miss Stephenson: I do not have a waterbed. I am not like the member; I do not need that kind of stimulation.

Their talks with the doctors are mired totally within their own stubbornness and their own intransigence. They tried to produce some absolutely draconian changes in the delivery of pharmaceuticals to patients in this province and they had to back down a little because both opposition parties demonstrated clearly that they were wrong. They have not done enough. They are not willing or able, apparently, at this point to ensure the safety of Ontario by ensuring interchangeability in those acts. They want the population of Ontario to be at risk.

This government cannot even sell off the Urban Transportation Development Corp. They really cannot. They have a marvellous facility, which should not be sold anyway. They tried to sell it and what have they done? They have got it all wrong and, as a result, there is not going to be a sale, certainly not at the price they wanted for it.

Now what do they do? They bring in a limp budget, a piece of wilted lettuce, that does little at best to address the real needs of this province and hides a considerable sum of money somewhere in the toils of government away from the prying eyes of the taxpayers who provided it.

The front cover of the budget booklet said it all. The image of the shattered trillium is the only vision this government seems to have for this province, to offer to the people of Ontario: the image of a fractured community, a community at war with itself. It is obvious that the members on that side of the House would rather hurl a bomb into the balcony than let the audience catch on to the fact that the performance below is going badly. That is what they are doing from time to time.

I was elected to serve the people of York Mills approximately 11 years ago. I believed at that

time it was the job of government to provide creative activity, positive thinking and imaginative direction, which would ensure that the framework within which the people of Ontario function would be best for their own use and for the exercise of their ingenuity, their cerebral capacity and the kind of wisdom they have. I still believe that is the role of each one of us on behalf of all Ontario.

In those 10 years, I have never seen a government so lacking in backbone. There is no steel in the spine anywhere, except for the vindictiveness they like to demonstrate from time to time. They have absolutely no strength in providing initiative in the direction of helping the people of Ontario to grow.

I have never seen ministers so eager to make florid announcements and so slow to exercise their responsibilities. I have never seen a government so insensitive to the needs of the people and so arrogant as to ignore completely the views and the insight of the people. They do not even answer their mail. If one is a citizen of Ontario, one waits six or eight months for a response from the ministers of this government.

The government and its bedfellows are fond of saying that last May the people of this province voted for change.

An hon. member: Since the Conservatives got kicked out of bed with these people.

Miss Stephenson: I was never there. The New Democratic Party and particularly the Liberals like to tell us the people voted for a new approach at Queen's Park. The Liberals are fond of expounding that the people of this province voted for the kind of government that would listen, would meet, would consult and would then act in response to their concerns.

I have a list of the ministers who have refused to meet responsible groups and individuals in this province. That list is growing beyond the schoolbook exercise type of document that is available to us. It is a disgrace what is happening in many ministries of this government. One of these days, they are going to have to recognize that they must meet with the people of Ontario, not just those who pay \$150 to go to the house of the member for London South (Ms. E. J. Smith) for a cocktail party to meet the ministers of the government. That is not the kind of consultation we are talking about.

5:20 p.m.

The people of this province may have been doing what the Liberals are fond of saying they did. They may have been looking for change, but if they were looking for a government to provide

real leadership in the 1980s, they have been bitterly disappointed. I do not really think they were looking for a group of political necrophiliacs who try to breathe life into old programs and ideas that were best suited to this province more than 15 years ago.

We need real leadership in this province, not a school of minnows floating around in all directions. We need more than "Who cares?" or a shrug from this government. We need a government that is vitally concerned with the needs of all Ontarians, whether they live in eastern Ontario, northern Ontario or southwestern Ontario. We need a government that is willing and anxious to draw the community together into a cohesive whole, to restore the fractured trillium it is producing.

We need a government that has the courage to tackle the real issues in a genuine way and not one that offers token solutions, flashy publicity stunts or expensive—and I mean expensive—public relations campaigns. The members opposite should never talk to us.

I look at this budget and I am forced to shake my head when I think of what could have been achieved if the budget had any kind of focus and if it had anything other than the political agenda of the gentlemen and the few ladies opposite. What do they do? They hide taxpayers' dollars. They forget the throne speech programs. They forget their commitments and their election promises. What are they waiting for? I guess it must be for another election campaign.

I have no doubt that in the not-too-distant future a member of my caucus is going to move that this budget be rejected out of hand by the House, but at this point I can only shake my head when I look at what other governments have been able to achieve in the past year. I look at little New Brunswick. Its budget last month had no major tax increases and was close to being balanced. Here in Ontario, we see government expenses rising faster than in any other jurisdiction in Canada, including the federal government. What a difference from the former careful stewardship of this province's resources we see now under this Premier.

I look at Quebec, where the government has been in power since only last December, and what a difference we see. There are supposed to be Liberals on that side of the House, but the Liberal government in Quebec has demonstrated that it has focus, it has direction, it has a plan, and it is showing real leadership. In Quebec, we see a government willing to make personal income tax cuts, willing to ensure there will be real action

taken to cut its deficit, willing to ensure that it earmarks areas of concern and working diligently—working, not talking—to encourage new economic growth in close partnership with the private sector, not driving business away with an attitude that tells the private sector the government knows better than it what is good for the province.

An hon. member: Big Brother.

Miss Stephenson: Big Brother. What a comparison with Ontario. Here we have a government drifting with the tide, arrogant enough to believe it has all the answers and apparently unwilling to see the initiative and enterprise that bursts out of the people of Ontario, which the government does not really have any involvement in and which it should be trying to encourage.

Can the government not understand that it does not provide the energy for the forward motion of this province? It may grease the wheels or give it a little push from time to time, but it is the people of this province who move this province forward. Why can the government not see that in this budget? Compare the two pictures of Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario, what do we see? Drift, lack of focus, total lack of direction, confusion—

Mr. Ferraro: The lowest unemployment rate in Canada.

Miss Stephenson: The lowest unemployment rate in Canada for the last four years. Alberta was lower than we were four years ago. We were improving faster than any other province long before the Liberals got here, and there is nothing they have done to improve employment, believe me, absolutely nothing.

What do we see in Ontario? We see drift. We see confusion. We see haziness. We see no vision from this government. We see absolute lack of direction and lack of focus. We see the arrogance of this regime. They believe there were others who were arrogant. There is no sample of arrogance more vivid than that which is displayed by this government on a daily basis.

However, in seeing that in this House and in our province, we also see in our sister province next door the energy, the leadership and the enthusiasm of a newly elected government with imagination and ideas. We see one regime letting things coast. We see another regime taking action, cutting taxes, cutting the deficit, limiting the growth of government spending, listening, and leading. This government is turning this province into a second class province by comparison.

I wonder what the boys at Earl's Shell will say to the Treasurer when they really know that this Treasurer and the Premier have let Ontario slide downhill in comparison to Quebec. What will they say when they see that Quebec has actually cut taxes and that this province has not only left them all on, it has increased some of them.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Their income tax is a third larger than ours, and the member knows it.

Miss Stephenson: They have reduced that already. They have taken action. What has the Liberal Party done? Nothing.

What we need is a real budget. We need some direction and some focus, not the shell game the Treasurer announced yesterday. It is hard to figure out where the \$300 million is, under which walnut, but it is in fact a shell game. It is not worth of the Treasurer to do that kind of thing.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We are going to dinner. This is the big day of the Premier's dinner.

Miss Stephenson: Too bad.

We need a budget that will effectively harness the energy, the enthusiasm, and the ideals of the people of this province; a budget that has the courage to extend the potential of our province; a budget that will restore the trillium to its whole state as it has been for so many years and not leave it shattered in many pieces as the Treasurer depicts it now.

We need a budget that allows the people of Ontario to understand that the government of this province has some idea about where it is going. We do not have that. At the present time, and from this budget, the people of this province believe this government has no compass, no goal, no destination, and no plan to get there. I believe they are right.

It is a shame that I have to make such negative remarks about what had the potential to be a great budget in Ontario. It is one of the worst examples of a budget that I have had the misfortune to see and I truly regret that this Treasurer who was, I think, born with common sense—he should have inherited some from his father—has lost all of the effect of that common sense as a result of being subjected to the pressure of the technocrats, trendocrats and yuppies who infect the Liberal Party of Ontario at present.

We do not need the kind of budget the Treasurer produced yesterday. We need real leadership and we are not getting it at present. That I abhor, that I feel the people of Ontario will understand shortly and that I believe they will speak to when the opportunity is provided to them.

On motion by Mr. Foulds, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: After the comments that were made today by my colleague, I wonder whether the House business will carry on or whether the Treasurer plans to withdraw the document and come out with a new budget.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. I suggest the member try that as a question at some future time.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: As I rise to move the adjournment, I suggest if the honourable acting House leader for the official opposition, the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), can get enough support on that side of the House, we can probably let the people decide the merits of the budget. We are quite willing to do that.

The House adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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